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CHERNOBYL INCIDENT

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FBIS DAILY REPORT
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Chernobyl Incident

Vol III No 088 *7 May 86*

In view of consumer interest in the Chernobyl nuclear accident and worldwide reaction to it, FBIS is instituting a series of comprehensive special supplements comprising material relative to the incident and its associated issues. Beginning with this volume, the series will continue until further notice.

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Foreign Ministry Holds Press Conference on Chernobyl
LD062143 Moscow Television Service in Russian
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[Press conference at USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 6 May on accident at Chernobyl AES, moderated by Yu. Gremitsikh, with B.Y. Shcherbina, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the government commission; A.G. Kovalev, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR; A.M. Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Utilization of Atomic Energy; Y.S. Sedunov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control; Y.I. Vorobyev, first deputy USSR minister of health; Yemelyanov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and deputy director of the Scientific Research and Design Institute of Power Engineering — recorded]

[Text] [Kovalev] What happened in Chernobyl is a calamity [beda], but lessons can be drawn not only from achievements but also from tragedies. We are not the first to suffer from an accident at a nuclear power station. Similar cases have occurred in other countries too. What happened in Chernobyl confirms again how cautious one must be in dealing with nuclear energy. In this case, we are dealing with the peaceful use of nuclear energy, with a controlled nuclear unit. But the energy of the atom is also the basis for nuclear weapons; it is specially intended for massive strikes, for destruction. If it were to be put into use, it would be uncontrollable.

In the statement issued by the leaders of the seven developed countries at their conference in Tokyo, they touched upon the subject of nuclear safety. As well as making statements, which are of an objective and generally positive nature, they are directing a reproach at us regarding the information we are presenting. This reproach is totally unacceptable. As soon as any reliable data appeared, they were immediately reported. As soon as the facts became clear at the site, about the real state of affairs, we started to report, and we report nearly every day. We do not indulge in guesswork. We rely on the facts and data provided by the best specialists and instruments.

Our authoritative and competent representatives present at the press conference will talk about this.

I would also like to note in passing, not by way of reproach but for the same of truthfulness, that when an accident took place in the United States in 1979, the U.S. side did not sort out the causes of what had happened at once by any means. It submitted information to the U.S. Senate after 10 days and to the IAEA after almost 2 months. Our approach, the Soviet approach, lies in ensuring that the information is responsible, objective, trustworthy, balanced, or to put it in one word — honest.

[Shcherbina] Comrades, ladies and gentlemen. We have come from the place around which passions are raging today. You know about what has happened at Chernobyl from the reports of the Council of Ministers and from TASS. What did happen there?

On April 26th, at 0123, during a planned shut-down of the set [blok] and at a power level of 200 megawatts thermal, there was an accident at the fourth set of Chernobyl AES with partial destruction of the core of the reactor and an escape of fission fragments outside the limits of the station. The criticality of the reactor was lost at this time. In connection with what has taken place, the Council of Ministers formed a government commission to take steps to make good the accident and to find out the reasons for what happened. The commission includes eminent scientists, leaders, and specialists from ministries and departments. Literally in a few hours the members of the commission were in the locality [na meste].

Everyone naturally is interested in why this happened. Only scientific and engineering investigation can answer this. Preliminary results now make it possible to conjecture that the most probable thing is that there was an accident in the reactor. Taking into account that the design and structural solutions correspond fully to the norms of both our country and generally accepted international practice, and that the quality of the manufacture, the installation and acceptance of equipment was properly checked, the cause of the accident could be the consequence of the coincidence of several exceptionally unlikely and therefore unforeseen failures. The activity of the staff on duty is also being analyzed carefully.

Hurry and haste in drawing conclusions in any matter, not just this one, are inappropriate. The commission has not completed its investigations. Its report has not been submitted. It is not all simple in a matter such as this. Time is needed, and a careful account. There must be no mistake, we cannot err. The price of such a conclusion is too high. I think that the majority will understand us, and for those who are programmed for prejudice and ill will — for those it is all the same, one stereotype. White is black. They invented raging fires, thousands of victims, total destruction of the station. Now, when it is known that the entire station is intact except for the fourth set, it is simply exaggerating [zhivopisat] to say that it is now a wasteland without people. I can report that today there are 150 people on duty at the sets, on duty round-the-clock. Incidentally, work is also under way in the lower zone of the fourth reactor.

They have reached it. Shielding [zashchita] is being constructed from various materials — sand, clay, boron, metals, lead — in order to curtial radioactive escape over the core: its upper part is already covered with more than 4,000 metric tons of these protective materials. As a result of the measures that have been adopted, the radiation situation in the Chernobyl area is normalizing; over the past 24 hours the level has come down even further. According to the results of systematic monitoring of the radioactive contamination of places on the territory of the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Moldavia, the radiation level has not exceeded radiation safety norms established by the IAEA and the USSR Ministry of Health. An increased level of radiation has been noted on the territory immediately adjacent to the accident site, where the maximum radiation level has now reached 10-15 milliroentgen per hour. According to data compiled for 5 May, the level of radiation in these areas [as heard] has fallen two- to threefold, including in the power workers' settlement. The highest radiation–there was observed on 27 April. Water facilities and the Kiev reservoir are being monitored

regularly. The concentration of radioactive substances here also presents no danger.

As a result of the accident at the station, 2 persons died and over 100 people received radiation damage [radiatsionnoye porazheniye]. During the night of 26-27 April they were all taken to Moscow and given essential medical assistance; that assistance continues to be given. Some of them are in a serious condition. I want to mention with satisfaction that Professor Gale and Professor Tarasaki, who have arrived from the United States, are helping Moscow specialists.

In order to ensure the safety of residents in areas adjoining the station, the entire population of the danger area was evacuated. Verification was carried out in a very precise and well-organized manner. As regards the moving of people from the 30-km zone, the population is being given essential assistance — medical, material, and job placement in the new places where they have settled.

A decision has been adopted on raising the rates of pay [tarifnykh stavok] for workers in these areas. Provision of aid to families in need — clothing and other daily requirements — is being given free of charge.

In the areas of Ukraine and Belorussia, which have not been evacuated, work is proceeding in agriculture, at enterprises, and at all organizations. Those to whom has fallen the difficult job of dealing with the accident, carrying out decontamination work, and returning the areas to normal life, are conducting themselves in a courageous and well-organized way.

Naturally, the question arises: Can it be that some people are trying to use the Chernobyl situation to strengthen their future position in the arms race and to distract the attention of the people from vitally important issues, from the issues of the threat of nuclear war and the program put forward by the USSR for the total destruction of nuclear weapons by 2000? We should think hard about this. Banning all nuclear tests would be an important step on the road to the attainment of this aim. In Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's recent reply to a message from the leaders of six states, the Soviet Union's readiness was stressed for the conclusion of the relevant agreements. Without in any way belittling the seriousness of what has happened at the Chernobyl station, we stand against political speculation and the desire to undermine the positive international interest in Soviet peace initiatives.

[Gremitskikh] I'll begin the written questions. Correspondents from the newspaper *MLADEN FRONT* of the CSSR, the Japanese newspaper *YOMIURI*, the ASSOCIATED PRESS agency, and many others ask: What is meant by the reactor being in a shot-down condition? Many journalists are interested in whether the emission of radioactive substances has stopped. Over to Comrade Yemelyanov, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences.

[Yemelyanov] The reactor being in a shut-down condition means that the chain-reaction fission has been stopped. This happened automatically in the damage-control shielding when the reactor was at a mimimal power level — which you were told about — of 200 megawatts. The reactor is still in that condition. Thus, naturally, there are now no emissions of radioactivity connected with the chain-reaction fission. There are none; there is only emission of radioactivity through radioactive fission fragments which accumulated in the process of the present work and which became partially unsealed.

[Gremitskikh] Michael Davidov, correspondent from the U.S. newspaper *PEOPLE'S DAILY WORLD* asks: What are rayon leaders doing, what measures have they taken, to reduce to a minimum the effect of this accident? How quickly was work organized to clear it up, and what was done with regard to medical aid?

[Shcherbina] When the radiation situation became dangerous, buses with escorts were sent to every house and to every doorway, with the result that from 1400 on the 27th to 1620, everyone was taken out of the town. There remained only an insignificant proportion of the necessary workers to service and maintain the viability of the town itself — municipal workers, communications workers, and certain others. As for the provision of medical aid, the commission adopted measures to mobilize medical workers, first and foremost from Ukrainian organizations in the town and oblast of Kiev. In those places where people had been evacuated, additional medical points were organized, medical services were organized, the collection of blood, and the provision of iodine preparations for the population. This is exactly what happened.

[Gremitskikh] Another group of questions which have come in from the GDR Magazine *NEUE BERLNER ILLUSTRIERTE*, the ASSOCIATED PRESS agency, a number of Japanese journalists, the television companies CBS of the United States, ARD of the FRG, the NOVOSTI press agency, and others deals with the nature of the radiation injuries and the methods of treating the victims. Comrade Vorobyev has agreed to answer these questions.

[Vorobyev] The press, the Western press, is reporting the most varied figures for injuries and deaths among our Soviet people. They cite figures of up to several thousands contaminated. I say again that only two were people killed. One of these died from heat burns: the burns covered 80 percent of his body, but in spite of all the measures that were taken, he died. These burns were absolutely huge. And the other person died from injuries incurred from things falling on him. Those are the two people who died [pogibli] in the first 24 hours after the accident. A mere 204 people were taken to hospital after being diagnosed with radiation sickness — 204 people, that is with varying degrees of contamination with [word indistinct] radiation. There are three groups of contamination: slight, medium, and severe. Of these 204 people, 18 people were diagnosed as having a severe degree of contamination. All 204 were taken immediately [svoevremenno] to the very best, qualified clinics in the Soviet Union, and they are being given every possible kind of help — including using bone marrow. All types of antibiotics are being used, everything possible which exists at the present time is at our disposal for giving help.

I must say there has also been a question about whether the Soviet Union accepted help from foreign states. I would like to point out with satisfaction that Professor Gale from the United

States has arrived in the Soviet Union and is giveng consultative help. He is a great expert in the field of bone marrow transplantation. We hope that Professor Gale, apart from his own experience, will be able to give other help to the victims, including a number of medicines.

A second well-known scientist, immunologist Professor Terasaki, arrived from the United States on 5 May, also to give consulative help in treating the victims.

[Unidentified journalist] *NEPSZABADSAG*, Hungary. I would like to ask: What consequences have there been in neighboring countries from the accident; for example, with us in Hungary?

[Gremitskikh] Similar questions are also asked by journalists of the ASSOCIATED PRESS agency, Danish television, and several other journalists. They are interested in the opinion of Soviet specialists on the question: Is there any kind of danger to the population of other countries as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl AES? Evidently this is one for Comrade Sedunov.

[Sedunov] The following can be said about this: In our opinion, there was no direct threat to the population either of our areas which are far enough away from the site of emission, or of foreign countries.

Certainly, the relevant services registered a rise in the natural background radiation. This is also noted by our radiation service. Because of the meteorological conditions in the first few days after the accident, such a result did take place successively in a northern direction, then in a northwestern direction, then westward, then southward, and this gave rise to a situation where signs of enhanced radiation coming in waves were noticed successively in various foreign countries.

Up to 1 May, for example, an enhanced level of radiation was noted in the Polish People's Republic. After 2 May this enhanced level was noted in the territory of Romania. We consider that his emission was shortlived; it was insignificant, not high. The raising of the level in the areas contiguous to the bordering territory shows that in comparison with the background the rise was about fivefold. That is, here the average background radiation amounts to about 100 milliroentgens an hour.

[Gremitskikh] A large group of questions deal with the problem of the safety of Soviet nuclear power stations. This is asked by Japanese journalists, from *YOMIURI* in particular, the correspondent of Finnish television, and many others.

[Petrosyants] The scientific and technical standard of work connected with nuclear power engineering in the Soviet Union, the plans for nuclear power stations and atomic reactors are at a very good technical level. In addition, for a number of individual units and items, they are superior to foreign ones.

Yes, an accident happened. A large accident, an unusual one, one out of the ordinary. But it must not be forgotten that in the Soviet Union there are 41 atomic power units. They have been working now for 30 years, or even a bit more. Incidentally, conventional, classical power engineering has been in use in the world for about 130-140 years. So nuclear power is a young technology. In spite of this, it has nevertheless managed to become reliable and confident, and it works like this quite within the norms of safety and reliability.

The accident at Chernobyl AES confirms yet again that indeed there might be individual instances leading to such unpleasant consequences. But to assert, or to think, or to declare that nuclear power in the Soviet Union is worse than that abroad is incorrect, to say the least.

But this is technology. The technology is young, the technology is very critical [ostraya], very complex, and, I would say, in a number of questions it is problematic.

To speak of foreign countries, I will give you some examples. In Britain, at Windscale, in October 1957, there was an accident at an industrial gas graphite reactor for the production of plutonium — plutonium for nuclear arms. The accident happened as a result of an uncontrolled fission of energy. The reactor core overheated and the graphite caught fire.

The fire at the reactor lasted more than 2 days. There was an emission of radioactive fission products into the environment. Incidentally, there was a large quantity of radioactive iodine, as has been reported here, in the active core among other things. And it must be noted that the radioactive cloud from this phenomenon, from this accident, was detected in both the FRG and Norway.

A second example: In Idaho, United States, on 3 January 1961, an accident happened at the boiling water reactor SE-1. The level of radioactivity increased as a result of a sudden withdrawal of a regulating rod which, incidently, happened during the maintenance procedure. This was the fault of the personnel. And this increase in radioactivity caused a sharp increase in power and, again, considerable melting of the core. An emission of active materials into the reactor hall and the environment took place. And, by the way, the accident caused the death of personnel at the station. One more example which you know well: At the Three Mile Island nuclear power station in the United States in 1979. A major accident happened there, and the world was agitated. And one can give a number of additional examples. This is new technology and science which, unfortunately, also in some cases requires sacrifices.

[Gremitskikh] *STERN* magazine correspondent (Frederics), and (Nicholas Danilow), correspondent of the *U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT* magazine, ask first: What was the highest level of radiation recorded in the USSR on 26 April in Chernobyl, Kiev, Gomel, Minsk, and Moscow? And second: What was the maximum radioactivity in a radius of 30 km from Chernobyl AES, and what is the radioactivity in this region now? I think Comrade Sedunov, yes? Please!

[Sedunov] Esteemed comrades. As far as the concrete maximum radiation levels connected with the 26 April accident are concerned, first of all I would like to say that in Moscow no change in the natural background radiation level has taken place. In Chernobyl the level rose to 15 milliroentgen an hour. And as the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers has said already, it has currently dropped threefold. In Kiev, the level at the moment

of emission was at the natural background level [na urovne fona] and only 3 days ago, apparently because of the southerly wind direction, the level there changed substantially and is now 0.2 milliroentgen an hour. In Minsk, there was no substantial increase over the natural background level. In Gomel, the situation is approximateley similar to the situation in Kiev.

[Gremitskikh] AP, *STERN* magazine, and Japanese journalists ask: How do Soviet experts view the problem of using nuclear energy in light of the Chernobyl AES accident? Is not the conclusion that the scale of using it should be reduced?

[Shcherbina] Nuclear power production will continue to develop — and develop throughout the world at a high rate. In the Basic Guidelines for the development of the country's national economy approved by the 27th party congress — many of you, of course, have read these materials — we are required to put into use in this 5-year plan period power capacities of the order of 40 millions [as heard] at nuclear power stations which means that nuclear power production industry will not be stopped. Nuclear power production will develop, and it is necessary to undertake all the new measures, probably, additional, some new additional scientific ideas and designs will appear, in order to provide more reliability so that no chance happening puts these reactors into an emergency situation.

[Gremitskikh] And here is a question to the press section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Correspondent (Martin) of the *GLOBE AND MAIL* asks: In 1979, during a similar accident in the United States, correspondents had an opportunity to visit the scene of the accident. Why do you not organize a similar trip now? If you have nothing to conceal about the accident, why do you keep it a secret?

On behalf of the press department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I can tell you that we will consider the possibility of organizing such trip. And, of course, you must understand that if the trip does take place, the group will not be too large.

More on Kovalev, Shcherbina Comments

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[Text] A news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists was held in Moscow today at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center in connection with the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power station. Comrade Kovalev, USSR first deputy foreign minister, addressed those assembled. He said in part:

[Begin Kovalev recording] As you know, reports are being published regularly on behalf of the USSR Council of Ministers; they contain reliable information. A few days ago the Chernobyl nuclear power station region was visited by Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Yegor Kuzmich Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. With the participation of the governmental commission, the leadership of the Communist Party and the government of the Ukraine, and local leaders, they reviewed measures being taken to eliminate the consequences of the accident and for helping the population.

Today, at this press conference, in addition to data which has already been published, we wish to present to you information first hand, as they say. Before handing over to Boris Yevdokimovich Shcherbina — as has already been announced, he is also chairman of the governmental commission in connection with the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power station — I would like to draw your attention to two or three general aspects.

The USSR expresses sincere gratitude to the governments, public organizations, and individual citizens who manifested or expressed sympathy in connection with what happened at Chernobyl nuclear power station. We accept with gratitude the help that is offered with good intentions, and which might prove useful. On the other hand, the conjectures and fables which are being heaped up around the Chernobyl accident, and which pollute the information environment, have a perfectly obvious and at the same time political and hostile underlying cause — an underlying cause which is hostile to the USSR and to our people. Of course, what happened in Chernobyl is a calamity [beda], but lessons can be drawn not only from achievements but also from tragedies. We are not the first to suffer from an accident at a nuclear power station. Similar cases have occurred in other countries, too. What happened in Chernobyl confirms once again how cautious one must be in dealing with nuclear energy. In this case we are dealing with the peaceful use of nuclear energy, with a controlled nuclear unit: But the energy of the atom is also the basis for nuclear weapons; it is specially intended for massive strikes, for destruction. If it were to be put into use, it would be uncontrollable.

In the statement issued by the Tokyo conference of leaders of the seven developed countries, they touched upon the subject of nuclear safety. Making statements, which on the surface appear to be of an objective and generally positive nature, they direct reproach at us regarding the information we are presenting. This reproach is totally unacceptable. As soon as any reliable data appeared, they were immediately reported. As soon as the facts became clear at the site, about the real state of affairs, we started to report, and we report nearly every day. We do not indulge in guesswork. We rely on the facts and data provided by the best specialists and instruments.

I should also like to note in passing, not by way of reproach but for the sake of truthfulness, that when an accident took place in the United States in 1979, the U.S. side did not immediately identify the causes of what had happened. It submitted information to the U.S. Senate after 10 days and to the IAEA — the International Atomic Energy Agency — after almost 2 months.

Our approach, the Soviet approach, lies in ensuring that the information is responsible, objective, trustworthy, balanced, or to put it in one word — honest. The experience of the last few days has revealed something very unsightly, and that is that this latest hysteria is being organized and directed from one center — the United States — and obviously in accordance with the same old scenario.

It is not at all a matter of the accident at the nuclear power station; it concerns something completely different. Certain militaristic circles feel that they are on shaky ground. It is shaky because world public opinion is decisively calling for an end to nuclear tests and for eliminating nuclear weaponry altogether. That is, it is calling for precisely that which the Soviet Union is putting forward. Such are, to put it plainly, the real motive forces behind the stream of lies being issued forth, the forgeries and garbled facts. All this is being done by those who would like to destroy international trust and now allow a return to detente, to complicate international cooperation in every possible way.

The lessons to be drawn from what has happened confirm again and again the main conclusion: Governments and peoples, all mankind, have no right to forget what terrible danger lies in nuclear weaponry. This is why it is so important to multiply the efforts of all countries and peoples for an immediate cessation of all nuclear tests and to embark finally upon reduction, and then total elimination, of nuclear weaponry. This is precisely the aim of the Soviet initiatives put forward by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the statement of 15 January this year, and confirmed and developed from the rostrum of the 27th CPSU Congress. [end recording]

Comrade Shcherbina, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the governmental commission, then spoke.

[Begin Shcherbina recording] You know about what happened at Chernobyl from the Council of Ministers and TASS reports. Just what happened there?

On 26 April at 0123, during a planned shut-down of the set [blok] and at a power level of 200 megawatts thermal, there was an accident at the fourth set of Chernobyl nuclear power station, with partial destruction of the operational area of the reactor and an escape of fission fragments outside the limits of the station. The criticality of the reactor was lost at this time.

In connection with what happened, the Council of Ministers formed a government commission to take measures to make good the accident and to discover the reasons for what happened. The commisison includes eminent scientists, leaders, specialists from ministries and departments. Literally in a few hours, the members of the commission were in the locality [na meste] and chemical protection units arrived there with additional protection forces.

Taking circumstances into account, the scientists and specialists worked out specific measures and began to put them into practice. The necessary amount of various equipment, helicopters, and material were deployed to the Chernobyl area. Accident repair work is now being carried out at the station. The first, second, and third sets have been put on standby. After what took place, they were all operating. Round-the-clock monitoring of their status and activity [deyatelnost] is being carried out. The third set, situated next to the damaged set, of course requires careful technical examination before start-up. As for the first two sets they are ready to produce power at any time.

Everyone, of course, is interested in why this happened. Only scientific and engineering investigation can give the answer to this. Preliminary results make it possible today to conjecture that most probably there was a chemical explosion in the reactor. Taking into account that the design and structural solutions correspond fully to the norms of both our country and generally accepted international practice, and that the quality and the (?administration) of the installation and receipt of equipment was properly checked, the cause of the accident would be the consequence of the coincidence of several exceptionally unlikely, and therefore unforeseen, failures. The activity of the staff on duty is also being analyzed carefully.

The accident in Chernobyl has stressed once again that the problem of safety is very important for everyone. Hurry and haste in any matter, let alone this, are not compatible. When it is known that the whole station is intact except for the fourth set, it is simply exaggeration to say that is is now a wasteland without people. I can report that today there are 150 people on duty at the sets, on duty round-the-clock. Work is also under way, furthermore, in the lower zone of the fourth reactor. A barrier [Zashcita] is being constructed from various materials — sand, clay, boron, metal, lead — in order to curtail radioactive escape over the operatoinal area: Its upper part is already covered with more than 4,000 metric tons of these protective materials.

As a result of the measures that have been adopted, the radiation situation in the Chernobyl area is normalizing; over the past 24 hours the level has come down even further. According to the results of systematic monitoring of the radioactive contamination of places on the territory of the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Moldavia, the level of radiation has not exceeded the norm of radiation safety established by the IAEA and the USSR Ministry of Health. According to data compiled for 5 May the level of radiation in these areas has fallen two- to threefold, including in the power workers' settlement. The highest radiation there was observed on 27 April. Regular monitoring of water facilities and the Kiev reservoir is under way. The concentration of radioactive substances here also presents no danger.

As a result of the accident at the station, two pesons died and over 100 people received radiation damage [radiatsionnoye porazheniye]. During the early hours of 27 April they were all taken to Moscow, where essential medical assistance was given them; that assistance continues to be given. Some of them are in serious condition. I want to mention with satisfaction that Professor Gale and Professor Tarasaki, who have arrived from the United States, are helping Moscow specialists.

For the purpose of ensuring the safety of residents in areas adjoining the station, the whole population of the danger area was evacuated. Verification was carried out in a very precise and well-organized manner. As regards the moving of people from the 30-kilometer zone, the population is being given essential assistance — medical, material, and job placement in the new places where they have settled.

In those areas of Ukraine and Belorussia which have not been evacuated, work is proceeding in agriculture, at enterprises, and at all organizations. Those to whom has fallen the tough job of dealing with the accident, carrying out decontamination work,

and returning the areas to normal life are conducting themselves in a courageous and well-organized manner. I wholly share the fully understandable unease over the consequences of the accident, and I value highly the expressions of sympathy offered us.

At the same time, we are bound to remark — and here I am endorsing what has been said by Comrade Kovalev — that in the West, and this includes some government circles, attempts are being made to use Chernobyl to undermine trust and cooperation. The most common complaint by far has been the reproach that we have not been prompt enough with information. But let us be realistic. Literally a few hours after it happened came the government decision to set up a commission. More than half the members of the commission were at that time in different parts of the Soviet Union, thousands of kilometers apart. And yet we arrived there and got down to work on the same day. We certainly had one or two things to sort out, to sort out in depth, to get to the bottom of what had happened. Immediate assessments had to be made, and we were on the spot where this had happened: It was not as though we were viewing the situation from afar. Therefore, when it was reported to the government on 28 April, governments of other countries were given all possible information at that time about what had happened. Therefore, government announcements have been published almost every day and, as has been said, IAEA Director General Mr Blix, has now arrived in the country. We have nothing to hide. All work will be carried out to give the final conclusions, and in keeping with our being a member of the IAEA, all the necessary information connected with this will be submitted according to the established procedures.

Today, one can convince oneself yet again how various information organs try to misinform the public. Western propagandists, as it were, strive to give the impression that they cover this matter objectively, but in essence they are blackening the USSR, crudely ignoring the information provided by the Soviet side. Attempts to make use of the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident for selfish political aims fundamentally contradict the interests of cooperation in the matter of resolving the urgent problems facing mankind in the use of nuclear energy. Naturally, the question arises, can it be that some people are trying to use the Chernobyl situation to strengthen their future position in the arms race and to distract the attention of the people from vitally important questions — from the questions of the threat of nuclear war, from programs put forward by the USSR for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000. [end recording]

The participants in the press conference replied to many questions from journalists.

Kovalev on Danger of Nuclear Energy

LD061329 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1242 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 6 May (TASS) — The entire course of events in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station and the measures to eliminate its consequences emphasize with a new and special strength the quality of the Soviet political and state system — its sense of responsibility, a responsibility for the life and health both of Soviet people and also of foreign citizens present in our country — stated Anatoliy Kovalev, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, at a press conference which took place here today for Soviet and foreign journalists.

Of course, he continued, what happened at Chernobyl is a misfortune. But lessons are drawn not just from achievements, but from tragedies, too. We were not the first to suffer from an accident at an atomic power station. Similar incidents have taken place in other countries, too. What happened in Chernobyl confirms once again the caution that has to be shown in handling nuclear energy. In this case, the representative of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed, it is a question of the peaceful use of atomic energy, of a controlled nuclear unit. But the energy of the atom has also been incorporated in nuclear weapons, it is specially destined for a mass strike, for destruction. Once it has been set in motion it becomes uncontrolled.

The lessons of what has happened, the USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs said, confirm again and again the main conclusion: Governments, peoples, all of mankind has no right to forget the terrible danger that is inherent in nuclear weapons. That is why it is so important to multiply the efforts of all countries and peoples for the urgent halting of all nuclear tests and for ultimately embarking upon the reduction of nuclear weapons, going so far as its complete elimination. The Soviet initiatives, which were put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement of 15 January of this year and which were confirmed and developed from the platform of the 27th CPSU Congress are directed toward precisely this. And precisely these goals are served, too, by the proposals and deep and wide international monitoring, including on-site inspection.

Media Reaction to Conference Noted

LD071023 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0230 GMT 7 May 86

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Oleg Brinov]

[Text] The attention of the foreign mass media has been attracted by the press conference held in Moscow on issues connected with the accident at the Chernobyl AES. The progressive press notes that the press conference was a logical continuation of the policy of providing the public with a wide range of information on this event. It supplemented the reports regularly published in the USSR and contained detailed, reliable information.

Citing the speech made at the press conference by Comrade Kovalev, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, REUTER picks out his words expressing the USSR's sincere gratitude to governments, public organizations, and individual citizens who have expressed their sympathy about the accident.

In the commentaries one's attention is drawn to the speaker's words to the effect that on the other hand the political backdrop to the event, obviously hostile to the Soviet Union, contains conjecture and fabrications which dominate this event. This latest hysteria is organized and directed from one center, from

the United States, according to the same old scenario, BTA reports, quoting the press conference. And it is not about the AES accident at all. Some militarist circles feel that under pressure from world public opinion the ground is shaking beneath their feet. This is because world public opinion is decisively demanding an end to nuclear tests and the elimination of nuclear weapons — a position supported by the Soviet Union. This, ADN points out, is the real motive force behind the torrents of lies covering the pages of some of the Western press.

News agencies draw attention to Comrade Kovalev's view that the lessons of what has happened yet again support the fundamental conclusion that governments, peoples, and all mankind have no right to forget how terrible is the threat inherent in nuclear weapons. This is why it is so important to intensify the efforts of all countries and peoples toward an immediate end to all nuclear tests, and ultimately to embark upon reducing and then totally eliminating nuclear weapons. The USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs said that this is the aim of the Soviet initiatives proposed in the 15 January statement made by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and confirmed and developed from the 27th CPSU Congress platform.

PRAVDA's Zhukov on U.S. Reaction to Chernobyl

PM061436 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 86
First Edition p 4

[Article by *PRAVDA* Political Observer Yuriy Zhukov: "Accidentally Dropping the Mask. Who Is Fueling the Anti-Soviet Ballyhoo and Why"]

[Text] In recent months the world public has been viewing the current U.S. Administration's blatantly provocative foreign policy escapades with understandable concern. The United States leaps at any excuse to heat up further an already tense situation, sow distrust and discord among the peoples, and poison the political climate.

And the purpose of it all is to divert attention from the criminal, aggressive actions of the United States, like the recent bombing of Libya and the undeclared wars against Afghanistan, Angola, and Nicaragua, to justify the intensification of the arms race, the continuation of nuclear tests, and the refusal to accept the Soviet peace initiatives.

The other day the escalation of these provocative actions reached a new peak. The U.S. state apparatus and the news media which do its bidding put out some fabrications about the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES. These fabrications are at odds with fundamental moral norms. The purpose of the new anti-Soviet campaign is to further fuel distrust of and enmity toward the Soviet Union. Everyone knows that vigorous steps were immediately taken to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and to aid the victims. As required, the Soviet Union informed the leaders of many countries of what had happened at Chernobyl. The USSR representative at the United Nations, addressing a plenary session of the General Assembly, talked about the work being done to eliminate the consequences of the accident.

UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar expressed satisfaction that the situation at the Chernobyl AES was under control. Many governments, organizations, and private citizens in various countries offered the USSR words of sympathy and the Soviet Government expressed sincere gratitude for them. The vigorous, selfless actions of Soviet bodies and specialists have won the respect of those who appreciate the significance of these actions.

It was only senior figures in Washington and in the capitals of some other NATO states who immediately latched on to the news of the Chernobyl accident in order to exploit it for their own hostile political ends. The fueling of hysteria and panic began. Cock-and-bull stories were concocted about "thousands of dead" and about the possibility of the population of Western Europe and, in all likelihood, the United States being affected by radioactivity. Prompted by Washington's special propaganda services, the West European gutter press started concocting fabrications, each one more awful than the one before. Expert panic-mongers began the forced evacuation of Western students, specialists, and tourists from the USSR, even if they were in Siberia.

Soviet citizens were able to see on television angry, protesting tourists literally being herded onto aircraft that had been specially sent to collect them, made to change into clothes provided by the authorities, and subjected to special checks which invariably showed, as one might have expected, that they had not been affected by any radiation while in the USSR.

The organizers of the new campaign of provocation are stepping up the pressure on the U.S. NATO allies, demanding that they stop buying foodstuffs from the socialist countries and prohibit their citizens from going there.

There is more in the same vein. Washington has been at pains to undermine trust in the Soviet proposals aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons. Again it has put forward the false thesis that there can be no agreement with the USSR on this since effective verification [kontrol] of observance of agreements would be impossible because U.S. reconnaissance satellites and other facilities set up for observation purposes failed to register... the Chernobyl accident, *THE NEW YORK TIMES* wrote. (Pentagon spokesman R. Sims said that Washington learned of the accident from a Soviet Government communique, although, as he put it, "our reconnaissance operation is splendid." A statement by U.S. Vice President Bush himself was in the same vein.) Finally, it got to the point where the Chernobyl accident came under special scrutiny at the meeting of the heads of the seven major capitalist powers in Tokyo — the U.S. side used the topic in order somehow to play down the friction between the allies as a result of increasing contradictions in the economic sphere and the U.S. aggression against Libya.

But the dense cloud of dust whipped up by certain Western politicians and propagandists has begun to settle. On the evening of 1 May U.S. and West European television companies were forced to show pictures received from Kiev and Minsk, which up to that point had been described as cities allegedly affected by the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident. Stunned Americans saw the festive mass demonstration taking place there.

CBS reported: "People in Moscow are dumbfounded, wondering why there is so much fuss about this in the West." Another company — ABC — reported that "the Soviet authorities are still allowing Western tourists to visit Kiev, which is 80 miles from the scene of the nuclear accident," although the U.S. Administration is telling people to refrain from making trips there and to the USSR in general.

THE NEW YORK TIMES published a report from Warsaw that a radiation specialist who had been rushed in from the United States carried out measurements in the U.S. Embassy living quarters and in U.S. diplomats' apartments and was forced to state that he had "found nothing untoward." And so on and so forth...

The sensation grew. The French television company TF-1 said that Western news media (they alone?!), "endeavoring to present their own version of the 'news,' were helping to fuel anti-Sovietism in the West." U.S. reporters dashed for clarification to the special interdepartmental group set up on instructions from the U.S. President "to examine questions connected with the accident at the Chernobyl AES." L. Thomas, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, was thrown to the wolves and found himself in a difficult situation. He was forced to state that "this incident poses no threat to the health of Americans." And later he had to admit, albeit with reservations, that the "casualty figures reported by the Soviet side may (!) be true." Having received clarification which basically demolished the version fed to them by the administration, the U.S. journalists angrily told Thomas that the U.S. Government had "drawn irresponsible conclusions" in its assessment of the Chernobyl accident. Suddenly realizing his mistake, the agency administrator rejected the journalists' assessment, but once something has been said it cannot be unsaid.

White House and State Department spokesmen had to heat up the unappetizing broth of Washington lies again and again, reiterating old fabrications which had already been exposed. In that way the "chronic liars," as late U.S. President Roosevelt called these experts at dirty work, began to lose their masks.

The ballyhoo over the events in Chernobyl had an effect that Washington had not bargained for: It made Americans look around and ask themselves — but what is the situation here, at U.S. nuclear power stations? There emerged a truly alarming picture which the authorities had carefully concealed. The first to sound the alarm was Senator Glenn. He made available a confidential, unpublished report by the Congress General Accounting Office showing that from 1971 through 1984 there were 151 accidents at nuclear power stations in 14 countries, the term accident signifying, according to Glenn, a "significant discharge of radioactive material or cases of radioactivity affecting people" and a "considerable deterioration of safety systems." Many of these accidents occurred in the United States, but they chose to keep quiet about them, stating that U.S. equipment precludes the possibility of such "incidents."

But even this information paled beside a report circulated by the U.S. "Public Citizen" organization whose authors, as has already been reported in *PRAVDA*, demonstrated that there have been around 20,000 "incidents and faults" since 1979 at U.S. nuclear power stations alone, and the number is rapidly growing.

So the unsavory ballyhoo kicked up by Washington over the accident at the Soviet nuclear power station has rebounded on the organizers of this disgraceful campaign. Soviet people do not gloat over failures and accidents at U.S. nuclear power stations. They appreciate that the development of nuclear energy is comparatively new, difficult, unexplored territory. It requires businesslike cooperation among scientists, specialists, and engineers in all countries.

It is high time those who in their blind anti-Sovietism and anticommunism are quick to use any excuse to speculate on someone else's misfortune realized that in a civilized society such unsavory escapades can only arouse the condemnation they deserve.

Zholkver: U.S. Publicity Distracts From Disarmament

LD061934 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 6 May 86

[Commentary by Political Observer Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] The newspapers, radio, and television in a number of Western countries, primarily in the USA, are continuing a noisy campaign concerning the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

I will point out first of all that accidents at nuclear power stations, unfortunately, occur not too rarely and happen in many countries. Thus, for example, according to data that were disclosed in the U.S. Congress recently, between 1971 and 1984 151 accidents took place at nuclear power stations in 14 countries.

Incidentally, the greatest number of dangerous incidents was recorded last year in the United States itself, where socalled major faults were recorded at one in 10 nuclear power stations. At the end of March, a serious incident took place at a British nuclear power station in Kent. But this became known only in an incidental publication in the London paper the *OBSERVER* last Sunday. Another British paper, *THE GUARDIAN*, remarked in this connection that this accident is far from being the only one that has occurred at British nuclear fuel processing plants; in particular, *THE GUARDIAN* recalled that as a result of the catastrophe at the Sellafield nuclear plant, 13 people died.

Bearing in mind that nuclear power engineering is still a little known and difficult thing, it would seem that such accidents should not arouse delight in the misfortune of others. Nor should it in this case. Current statements by certain high-ranking American officials, however paradoxical it may seem, are full of undisguised feelings of malevolence. The desire to avoid a response to the demand of world opinion to support Soviet proposals on nuclear disarmament comes through fairly transparently. That is why anti-Soviet hysteria is going full steam ahead here, and people in the West are being scared by "radioactive winds from the Soviet Union."

True, those who understand a little bit about these things do not support the panic-mongers. Thomas, a director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for example, acknowledged that reports from the European countries indicate a low level of radiation, and that there is no threat to the health of Americans.

Incidentally, if one is talking about a threat, not just to Americans but to all mankind, then, as noted at the press conference in Moscow today, it is linked above all with the nuclear arms race. The reason for this most dangerous race is sufficiently well known. It is Washington's refusal to accept the Soviet proposals on nuclear disarmament, and, first and foremost, ending nuclear weapons tests.

So I cannot but agree with the West Berlin paper *DIE WAHR HEIT* when it writes: Those who are now attacking the disaster at Chernobyl AES and at the same time saying nothing about the catastrophic consequences of the military use of nuclear power are just hypocrites.

West Said To Make False Reports, Hide Own Incidents

LD052326 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1830 GMT 5 May 86

[Announcer-read report from "The World Today" program presented by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Text] The attention of overseas mass media has been attracted by the TASS report in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station. In essence, the commentaries amount to this: that work to get rid of the consequences of this accident and to give assistance to its victims continues at the station itself and in the surrounding locality. Neither has it escaped foreign observers that the Soviet Government expressed sincere gratitude to all those who expressed their sympathy and understanding of what has happened and who offered assistance and cooparation. Certain circles in the West, however, continue to gloat over someone else's misfortune, which is in itself an unworthy thing to do.

The screaming headlines that have appeared on the front pages of bourgeois U.S., British, and other Western newspapers are intended to deceive public opinion and not to report actual facts, the Portuguese *DIARIO* writes today. Thoroughly false assertions about the number of accident victims have been dictated by a clear intention to play up to reactionary forces in their dirty game directed against Soviet society and its achievements. Completely groundless, too, are the statements made by some western figures about the lack of sufficient information from the Soviet Government, the Portuguese newspaper continues. Reports from Moscow have given an extremely clear picture of the accident itself and the measures being taken to eliminate its consequences, *DIARIO* notes.

I would like to draw your attention to yet another aspect of the noisy campaign in the West. The accident at the Chernobyl AES is deliberately being blown up in Washington, London, and other Western capitals, but, at the same time, they are deliberately keeping quiet about similar incidents in their own countries. Last year, the greatest number of dangerous incidents took place at atomic power stations in the United States since the major accident at the Three Mile Island atomic power station near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1979. This was the conclusion reached by Markey, a member of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, on the basis of an analysis of the annual report of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which was presented to Congress. The report stresses that major incidents or faults were recorded at one-tenth of all atomic power stations in the United States last year. Even if one takes into account the fact that the federal authorities are inclined to play down the seriousness of accidents that take place at atomic power stations, the data that have been given are evidence of violations of safety techniques and give rise to alarm, Markey stressed.

UK Reaction to Chernobyl Termed 'Sensationalism'

PM061456 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 86 p 9

[APN and *LITERATURNAYA GAZETA* correspondent Viktor Orlik dispatch under the rubric "How Anti-Sovietism Is Produced": "For the Sake of Sensationalism"]

[Text] London — It is quite possible that some of the British students who flew into London from Kiev and Minsk at the request of their government following the Chernobyl AES accident may have heaved a sigh of relief on their return home. According to a report by *THE GUARDIAN*, however, many of them are indignant at being sent home. They suspect that the Western mass news media exaggerated the danger caused by the accident. They accuse the Western press of wishing to gain political advantage from events in Chernobyl.

Indeed, the false, biased, and totally unfounded reports which flooded the local newspapers cannot be described as anything but an attempt to take advantage of other people's misfortunes. They started by citing data obtained via a U.S. spy satellite to the effect that many thousands of people had died, that an explosion had allegedly occurred at a second reactor, and that there was an increasing leak of radioactive elements into the atmosphere and a deadly danger threatening the USSR's neighbors to the west and northwest. Later, when none of this was confirmed, they were forced to admit reluctantly that these data were "incorrect" and to retract the reports.

The Chernobyl accident caused mainly a flood of speculation instead of sympathy for the victims among the local press and right-wing political circles. The mass news media, blowing up the consequences of the accident beyond the limits of credibility, attempted to discredit the Soviet program for the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, to generate political mistrust in the USSR as a partner in nuclear disarmament talks, to divert the world public's attention from the aggressive U.S. policy, and to reduce the intensity of anti-American feelings in Europe and the world. The desire to cause economic damage to the USSR and the socialist countries exporting certain foodstuffs to West Europe was by no means their least consideration. It is easy to understand that this pushes up the prices of commodities produced by Western corporations. According to newspaper reports, grain, livestock, and sugar prices have already shot up in

the market.

As regards the radiation which was used to frighten residents in Scandinavian countries, according to the *FINANCIAL TIMES*, Gunnar Bengtsson, director of the Swedish National Radiation Protection Institute, has declared that the level of radiation there now is not at all dangerous to people's health.

Official announcements and reports presented to Western representatives in Moscow and other countries contained all the necessary information about the occurrence. But the Western mass news media needed sensational, "terrifying" news. This is why they resorted to the tested method of concocting it, sacrificing objectivity for the sake of traditional and vulgar anti-Sovietism.

'Political Expedience' Behind West's Reaction

LD061451 Moscow in English to North America
2300 GMT 5 May 86

[Vladimir Pozner commentary]

[Text] This past Sunday two American friends of mine who have Soviet wives told me about the frantic calls they have been getting from home. Their mothers, it seemed, were almost basket cases. They'd been getting all this news — and I put that word in quotes — about the Chernobyl atomic power station accident, and they were convinced of several things. First that the radiation was worse than Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined, second that at least 25,000 people were already dead, third that the whole European territory of the USSR was contaminated, but that all of this, even the fact of the accident itself, was being hidden from the Soviet people.

But frankly I wasn't surprised, (?yet) only because on Friday night, 30 April, [as heard] just before I left Moscow for Leningrad I received four calls in a row from the U.S., three from TV stations in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and California and one from the *NEW YORK POST*. The questions they asked were like: Is it true that 20,000 have died, why is Kiev being evacuated? As they asked these and similar questions, I asked myself do I perchance detect a note of glee, a, shall we say, tonal rubbing of hands?

Well, to make a long story short, the U.S. reaction — better said, a significant portion of that reaction — to the Chernobyl accident, has led me to the following thoughts:

Number one, prior to the partial test ban of 1963 (?the) United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union tested nuclear weapons in the atmosphere; and after the signing of that treaty, nuclear weapons continued to be tested in the atmosphere by France and China. Now, some of those tests had high yields and yet nobody except a few peaceniks were screaming about radioactive fallout in the United States. Why? Well, because the policy was pro-testing, and I sincerely hope everyone realizes how far removed the Chernobyl accident is from testing in the atmosphere. So the question I ask is: What has changed? And the answer is: Nothing, because the ho-hum attitude of the media to atmospheric tests then and the eye-popping, hair-raising approach to Chernobyl now, are both the result of political expedience.

Number two, official Soviet sources have thus far given the casualty list as 2 dead and 18 in critical condition. The state of affairs has been on national TV every day, as well as the subject of newspaper reports. According to the United States media, the number of dead is supposed to be upward of 20,000, a mere 10,000 times more than the official Soviet figure. They also say that people here know nothing about the accident because the Soviet media are saying nothing about it, a disaster more terrible than Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined. So I ask myself a second question: How can a self-styled free press, that supposedly prides itself on its integrity, first create rumors and then present them as information to its audience without even the slightest concern for truth or responsibility? And again I get the same answer: Political expedience. For to make things, anything at all, look worse in the Soviet Union than they really are is politically expedient.

And that brings me to number three. A sincere desire to render aid has been voiced by many individuals and organizations around the world. Needless to say, we are grateful for them. Others however have seen fit to exploit the Chernobyl accident to promote their political interests. Let it be said that accidents at atomic power plants have happened before. Can anyone guarantee they won't occur in the future? Far from being an occasion to point fingers, (?they) should serve as rallying points where international combined efforts (?can) lead to major advances in dealing with what will ultimately be humankind's boon or bane, the (?harnessed) but never harmless atom.

Chernobyl 'Cloud of Lies' Over U.S., W. Europe

LD061543 Moscow World Service in English
1410 GMT 6 May 86

[Commentator Aleksandr Putko analysis]

[Text] Throughout the past few days we've all been following with understandable attention the regular government reports about the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant that's situated 130 km north of the city of Kiev, capital of the sovereign Republic of the Ukraine. Here's an analysis from our commentator Aleksandr Putko. He writes:

This is the second week since the accident, which occurred at night. Structural damage was caused and the reactor was also damaged. Some radiation escaped. A fire began and it has been unusually difficult to put it out, since water and the chemicals fire fighters usually resort to would have instantly evaporated because of the extreme heat and would have escaped into the atmosphere. All this has been reported in the mass media. On television screens we could see reports from the site of the accident and from nearby areas. People involved in the events described how assistance was given to the casualties, how well-organized and panic-free was the evacuation of the residents of the power plant's community and nearby communities, what the situation is like in the neighboring localities.

Misfortune is misfortune. Of course it makes all normal people sorry. All the people correspondents have been talking to have spoken about the problems that have to be solved when the many thousands of the evacuees have to be resettled in safe areas. Some people told correspondents bitterly that the Western propaganda media have been using this accident in order to further aggravate the situation, to poison the political climate. Well indeed, a cloud of lies is floating now over the United States and the West European countries. A stream of dirty inventions has been discharged into the atmosphere of international relations. But silence is being kept on many things. The Western press tries to omit the fact that energetic measures have been taken in the Soviet Union to cope with the consequences of the accident, and, as could be expected, the Soviet Government has informed the leaders of many countries about the accident. The Soviet ambassador to the United Nations described in a speech at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly how the aftereffects of the accident are being removed. The United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has expressed satisfaction over the fact that the situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is under control.

And yet much is being written in Western newspapers about a panic that allegedly hit Kiev, about the failure of the crops in the Ukraine. All this is being done in order to divert the attention of people from the aggressive actions of the United States — for instance, the recent bombings of Libya — from the continued arms race. But now lets return to the events at the Chernobyl plant. According to the latest reports the situation there is still complex. Yet the main thing is that the situation is under control. Engineers and workers are busy cooling and shutting down the other reactors. The level of radiation is falling off. It is being thoroughly monitored everywhere in the nearby areas. Field work, also under such control, is well in progress.

A report has just been shown on television from a large vegetable farm near Kiev. And this is what the manager of the farm said: The manager of the farm said that all the workers on the farm are toiling hard and that the farm has just sent another batch of vegetables to Kiev. The vegetables have been checked for radioactivity. No increased radiation was found. The work to eliminate the consequences of the accident continues.

IZVESTIYA Reports on Chernobyl Area Evacuation

PM071004 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 86 Morning Edition p 6

[A. Illesh report: "The Situation Is Under Control. *IZVESTIYA*'s Special Correspondent Reports From the Chernobyl AES Area"]

[Text] Kiev Oblast — It has already been reported that an accident occurred at the Chernobyl AES near Kiev. A fire broke out inside the AES building, in the No 4 reactor unit. It was a matter of exceptional complexity to extinguish the flames — the fire could not be controlled by either water or chemicals. The high temperature would have instantaneously transformed everything in the fire zone into steam.

Our reportage will cover matters that are evident today and the measures being taken to eliminate the consequences of the occurrence. In order to do this we will have to turn back to the night of 26 April. Let us recreate the sequence of events with the help of *IZVESTIYA*'s Kiev correspondents N. Baklanov and S. Tsikora.

It was 0127 hours. The duty crew of the No 2 Military Fire Fighting Unit, on duty at the power station at that time, heard a roar. Duty crew chief Lieutenant V. Pravik automatically recorded the time. The very next instant the fire fighting unit's premises echoed the howling of the siren — the duty crew chief had sounded the alarm. But the firemen had themselves realized a second earlier that their help would be needed and were already on the move, putting on their protective clothing while running in the direction of their vehicles.

The controller-switchboard operator immediately contacted the fire fighting unit in the city of Pripyat and then the central fire fighting control unit of the Fire Protection Administration under the Kiev Oblispolkom's Main Administration for Internal Affairs. The fire fighting services were operating at the highest precedence for calling out subunits — precedence three. This priority demanded that reserves would also be placed on standby at the fire fighting units. All off-duty staffers were immediately placed on alert. At that time Lieutenant Colonel I. Kotsyura, deputy chief of the Fire Protection Administration, chiefs of departments, and other officials left Kiev by car in the direction of the AES. The situation at the power station was extremely complicated — the roof of the machinery hall was on fire. The first task was therefore clear. The main point was to extinguish the flames.

The fire had to be fought at a height of 30 meters. This was not just a matter of working at height. The firemen had to make incredible efforts to advance step by step toward the fire; the bitumen on the road surface was melting in the infernal heat, and boots became heavier by the minute, getting caught in the molten mass, and turning "leaden" because of the resin that was sticking to them. Unit chief Major Telyatnikov headed the work up above.... Disregarding the danger, he and the firemen fought the flames until the threat of the fire spreading further had disappeared. And that was the main point. After all, AES reactor units Nos 1, 2, and 3 were right next door.

The militia operated precisely and selflessly in the complex situation. A conference of the Pripyat City Internal Affairs Department was held at 0215 hours. All traffic not involved in dealing with the accident and helping the victims had to be stopped in the city. The second item on the agenda was the maintenance of the strictest order in the city. Finally it was necessary to close all approach roads to the AES to all vehicles that were not needed at the time.

Militia staffers from Polessk were the first to arrive at the City Internal Affairs Department by 0400 hours to help. They were followed by staffers from the Chernobylskiy and Ivankovskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Departments (they are the neighboring rayons). All forces were drafted to organize traffic check points, close off roads, cordon off areas, and form groups to control traffic in the city and patrol important installations.

Staffers on duty at the traffic check points found themselves under exceptional circumstances. The greatest danger was, of course, there — close to the accident site, two steps away from the burning building. At the same time, however, special vehicles were rushing there, and their flow had to be regulated. During the first day, State Automobile Inspectorate staffers from Pripyat had to remain on duty for 10-12 hours. Special mention must be made of Junior Lieutenant of Militia V. Vishnevskiy, a state automobile inspector, and Petty Officer of Militia M. Matyukha and Senior Sergeant V. Denisenko, inspectors from the highway patrol service. Order was imposed on the roads.

The fire was extinguished. But the work that remained to be done was no less complex and responsible, demanding, on the one hand, tact and understanding and, on the other hand, particular speed of execution. We are talking about the evacuation of people. And the militia coped well with this most important work. The entire city of Pripyat was divided into five sectors (each one of them covering one residential neighborhood), and five evacuation groups were set up corresponding to each sector. They were headed by senior officers from the City Internal Affairs Department and the Ukrainian MVD. G. V. Berdov, republic deputy minister of internal affairs, arrived in Pripyat 26 April, followed by Major General A.I. Borovik, chief of the political section, on the 27th. They did not return to Kiev until 4 May, when all the most complex operations had been finally completed.

"Our staffers," G. Berdov said, "acted selflessly under all the complex circumstances and displayed staunchness. In my view, a major role in the organization of work was played by the party groups and organizations headed by A. Borovik...." Let me add that Berdov himself displayed equal courage.

The main burden of all the difficulties connected with evacuation work was borne by precinct inspectors in the city of Pripyat. The speed and precision of the evacuation itself depended largely on them. Lists were drawn up through the night and for half of the next day, staffers were assigned duties depending on the number of homes and doorways, transportation needs were calculated. Buses were allocated to each sector and were given precise routes.

"The evacuation was announced at 1400 hours," A. Borovik told us. "At 1350 hours, one of our staffers called at each doorway, visiting every apartment and warning people, repeating what had only just been announced on the radio. No assembly points were set up in order to avoid commotion and panic, and we achieved what we wanted."

The result speaks for itself: In the space of 2 hours virtually the city's entire population — around 40,000 people — was evacuated on 1,100 buses. State Motor Vehicle Inspection Administration staffers arranged for this enormous convoy to run smoothly and without holdups. The few people who were not evacuated with all the inhabitants of their apartment block or yard went to the police. They were quickly taken to evacuation points and were given seats — if available — on the buses, which arrived on time.

The city emptied... But the apartments with personal effects, stores, institutes — in short, everything — were not abandoned. Immediately after the evacuation the guard service went into action. The republic's MVD leadership particularly notes the actions of the deputy chief of Pripyat City Internal Affairs Department, Militia Capital Stelmakh, and Lieutenant Colonel Kovalenko, whose wife was in the hospital and who had three small children at home. He raced off to see them for just a few minutes and then rushed back to work...

The people from the danger area were finally evacuated. The line — a 30 km ring around the AES — was closed tight. The only people inside it were those who were eliminating the consequences of the accident or working on the three remaining AES reactor units. Militia workers organized a registration service and an address department for lost persons. And today any person can find his family within a matter of minutes.

There is no population in the danger zone. How can those who have left the zone find out about their health? People's concern is natural... This is the seventh night in succession when the lights have been burning all night on every floor at the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. This was one of the first places where the news about the misfortune at the Chernobyl AES arrived. V. Kozlyuk, chief of the Main Administration for the Provision of Medical and Preventive Aid to the Population, spoke about it.

"The Health Ministry duty officer called me early in the morning. Fortunately, I live near the ministry. And I got there, to the necessary communication channels, quickly. The information I had managed to obtain forced me to make decisions quickly and responsibly. A few minutes later 'first aid' vehicles were rushing to Chernobyl from all subunits in Kiev and the oblast's central rayon hospitals...

"Only a few hours had passed but in the areas around the AES there were enough physicians both to carry out checks on people who were near the station and to give medical aid to the casualties.

"In the first and most alarming and tense days I worked at Polesye. A specialized aid center was organized there on the basis of the rayon hospital. All the patients who were in the hospital for treatment showed surprising understanding of the situation and the utmost tact and nobility. Those whose ailments were not too serious asked to be discharged. They gave up their places to particularly serious casualties of the AES accident. Of course, those who were discharged early were not left without medical aid.

"The physicians in the Chernobyl area worked round the clock without a break. By the end of the first day everyone with the slightest, even theoretical, sign of radiation sickness was hospitalized at Polesye and Ivankov hospitals. These hospitals were tasked with carrying out the preliminary examination role. If the patients still showed signs of sickness they were immediately moved to the Kiev Radiological and Oncological Research Institute clinic.

"Today all those who were in the AES zone are undergoing a full medical examination, including blood tests. These examinations may be carried out several times.

"We will act in such a way as to reveal any discrepancies," V.

Kozlyuk reported. "This most important preventive measure must be our insurance against any problems in the future."

Yesterday specialists appeared on Kiev television. The necessary knowledge makes it possible to prevent the emergence of any improbable rumors. Here is what G. Revenko, first secretary of Kiev CPSU Obkom, said:

"Now, as you know, the evacuation zone has been increased from 15 km to 30 km. We have evacuated all people from that area. But we have not acted in this way because any of the evacuees are threatened by a specific danger. No. The zone has been expanded as an extra justifiable precaution in this instance. We are perfectly well aware that it is ultimately a question of our people's health. And there can be no two opinions about how to act in this matter.

"Yes, in Kiev Oblast we have encountered an unprecedented disaster. But the phones are ringing at the party obkom: People are prepared to go where and when they are needed, are offering their help, and are ready to tackle any job...

"There is enough work. The evacuees are being accommodated in four of the oblast's rayons (in dozens and dozens of settlements), and these people must be supplied with food and clothing as soon as possible and have provision for their children's schooling and hospitals for the elderly. What would I like to note? The state is shouldering all the concern for the evacuees. As is the population, of course. Even though they are sometimes cramped, they are saying: You can stay with us. They are offering all sorts of help.

"Difficult work has been done and even more complex work lies ahead," the obkom secretary said. "People do not just move with their belongings, they take their livestock and poultry. Who would leave their dog behind? And we have to preserve everything and help everyone! The state is allocating funds for this. Items will be issued free to those who need them. Money will be issued on the basis of registers. The Oblast Potrebsoyuz and trade organizations are offering credit without prior payment. The oblast consumer services department is supplying the population with clothing...

"The oblast party organization sees its prime tasks as being to give all possible effective aid to the work of the government commission, to prevent panic, and, of course, to continue to handle the fulfillment of national economic plans. Nobody has withdrawn or is withdrawing these matters from our jurisdiction. Agricultural products continue to arrive uninterruptedly in vast Kiev — the city must be fed. The quality of the produce is checked twice. So there is no and should be no concern about what is being sold in the stores. The oblast's plants are producing output... Life goes on!"

...Accident teams — dozens of people whose work can, without any exaggeration, be compared with a feat — are currently working at the AES. The situation, specialists say, is difficult but wholly controllable. And that is the main thing.

TASS Updates Status of Cleanup

LD062026 Moscow TASS in English 2009 GMT 6 May 86

["Chernobyl Station — Report" — TASS headline]

[Text] Kiev Region May 7 TASS — By TASS special correspondents Vladimir Itkin and Lev Chernenko reporting from the Chernobyl nuclear power station area:

The workers' collective at the Chernobyl nuclear power station (NPS) is united like a family in grief. With the reactors inoperative, it is now not the station giving energy to people, but the people giving their energy to the NPS.

It is not easy to combat the consequences of the accident.

Although the reactors have been shut down, they are being maintained in the required mode, and necessary operations are being carried out. Electric power specialists are continuing their work at the station. Their health is being constantly monitored by physicians.

Gennadiy Karyaka, deputy secretary of the Chernobyl NPS party committee, told the correspondents that the people acted with courage during the accident, and there were no deserters. None refused work, and everyone performed his duty.

The township of Pripyat was evacuated immediately after the accident. The families of the station personnel are now settling down in new places.

The demand for kindergarters and creches has been fully met. Schools and medical institutions are working at near-full capacity.

Transport workers are particularly busy at the moment. They are accompanied by radiation control operators at the major crossroads. Among the convoys of vehicles there are many lorries carrying animals. Cattle and horses are being evacuated from the accident area. Domestic animals have not been left behind.

Summer pens have already been built in the farms to accommodate the cattle. The evacuated live-stock farmers will tend their animals.

District radio regularly broadcasts reports on the current evacuation and radiation situation, the progress of field-work and milk yield.

We haven't observed a single instance of panic or refusal to do what one was asked.

All necessary things have been supplied to shops. Farmers are considering harvest prospects: spring is a special time for peasants. Every person who happened to be inside the 30-kilometer zone around the NPS has been subjected to special decontamination treatment. According to official medical information, there are no health risks for the absolute majority of the evacuees.

Although the situation remains disquieting, there are no grounds for unwarranted scepticism. High-pace work is under way to

eliminate the consequences of the accident and deactivate the contaminated areas.

Grigoriy Revenko, first secretary of the Kiev regional committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, said to the TASS correspondents that the entire republic, the entire country were taking part in the effort to eliminate the consequences of the accident.

The work of doctors should be specially mentioned. Together with other specialists they should monitor everything: the state of crops, soil, water and air. Nothing is brought into shops without being checked first.

Vegetables supplied to the towns are checked twice: on the field and in shops. All roads in the region are constantly washed. Hundreds of special vehicles were assigned to do the job. Drivers, shop and consumer service personnel are doing a great deal of work on these days.

Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, is living a calm, confident and full-blooded life. All enterprises are operating. The main thoroughfare, Kreshchatik, is crowded. In the evening, as always, its theatres and concert halls are filled with people. The peace cycling race started in Kiev yesterday.

Life 'Normal' in Kiev

LD060734 Moscow TASS in English 0722 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS — Life is normal in the Ukraine's Kiev region, the newspaper *KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA* says today. The story deals with the urgent measures taken to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

It took less than three hours to evacuate the inhabitants from the township of the nuclear power plant and several neighbour populated localities, the newspaper stresses. The necessary medical aid has been timely given to people who got into the accident.

Four districts of the Kiev region have hosted the evacuees, who were accorded a hospitable welcome everywhere. Grigoriy Revenko, first secretary of the Kiev regional committee of the CPSU, told the correspondents about the amazing examples of friendly consideration, of how the inhabitants of villages offered to share their homes with the evacuees.

The life of temporarily evacuated people is speedily returning to normal. While on the first day after the arrival, 50 percent of evacuee children went to school, now nine in each ten evacuated children are attendig classes. Material aid is offered to those who need it, often on an unrepayable basis. The supply with foods, clothing and everything necessary has been efficiently ensured.

Medical men are busy examining all the arrivals.

The state of the soil and crops is under permanent control. Drinking water is in good condition. If there is even the slightest doubt about the quality of foods, they are not put up for sale. The economy of the region functions, as always, efficiently.

The test has once again shown the generosity and spiritual wealth of the Soviet people, their indomitable courage, the newspaper says.

Chernobyl Staff Preparing To Return to Work

LD061431 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 6 May 86

[Report by special correspondent Vladimir Sokolov "from the region of the Chernobyl AES"]

[Text] [Sokolov] I am conducting this report from the Lesnaya Polyana sanatorium. The AES personnel who immediately after the accident fought against its aftereffects are here; they are now preparing to return there. (Gennadiy Alekseyevich Koryaka), deputy secretary of the AES party committee, explains.

[(Koryaka)] the staff will rest here for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks there will be replacements. Some of the staff will be going on shift, and those who have been working will come here to recover [dlya ustanovlyeniya sil].

[Sokolov] Are there employees on duty now?

[(Koryaka)] Fifty to sixty people are on duty around the clock. The staff has protective means the whole time; the station will be provided with complete protection.

[Sokolov] (Antoliy Nikolayevich Ved), the head of a shop, adds:

[(Ved)] People are now working in two shifts.

[Sokolov] What are the tasks of these shifts which are currently (?on site)?

[(Ved)] The task of the shifts now is to provide control and measurement instruments for running the systems which still remain in operation and overall monitoring of the situation in the sets. All three sets have been shut down, but certain systems remain in operation.

[Sokolov] Are you also preparing to return there?

[(Ved)] Of course. They've let me have a little rest, because I've had 4 days and nights without sleep. After my rest, of course I'm going back.

[Sokolov] The people — and there are more than 150 of them here — are surprisingly calm and self-confident. They only begin to get excited when the talk turns to the fabrications of foreign propaganda about the accident and the supposed victims and panic. (Anatoliy Konstantinovich Ponomarev), a foreman, has this to say:

[(Ponomarev)] No, there was no panic. The evacuation was announced. It was reported over the radio that buses would be brought to every entrance, and in half an hour — in 15 minutes — people emerged from the entrances carrying their things.

[Sokolov] The deputy secretary of the AES party committee adds the following details:

[(Koryaka)] Some 1,100 buses were brought into the town. A bus was brought up to virtually every entrance. In Pripyat there is no population at the present time; it has been completely evacuated. Pumps are working there to provide water for the town. The electricity has not yet been switched off. Personnel go there periodically. Work is now being prepared to carry out radioactive decontamination. Our staff is travelling out in order to organize this radioactive decontamination.

[Sokolov] In conclusion, an understandable question for the chief doctor of the sanatorium, (Vitaliy Alekseyevich Melnichenko). How are the people who are under careful observation by the doctors, people who were in the area of the accident and who are now preparing once again to work at the station?

[(Melnichenko)] The people here in the sanatorium are quite capable of starting work. They are completely healthy people.

POLAND

Spokesman Urban Discusses Radiation Situation

LD062333 Warsaw PAP in English 2230 GMT 6 May 86

["Government Spokesman's Press Conference" by Waldemar Janiec and Miroslaw Luniewski — PAP headline and byline]

[Text] Warsaw, May 6 — The issues related to the increased radiation level registered in Poland last week dominated today's press conference of spokesman for the Polish Government Min. Jerzy Urban. He also presented the Polish Government's answer to the discriminatory moves by the U.S. authorities which limited the freedom of travel by staff of Polish diplomatic missions in the U.S., and answered a few questions concerning attempts to disturb social order on May 1st and 3rd.

Radioactivity: The Safety Level Was Not Exceeded

Touching upon the issue of the increased radiation level in Poland after the accident at the Soviet power station in the Ukraine, Min. Urban made an extensive statement.

I accuse the Western mass media of ill will in passing forth information concerning the radioactive contamination of Poland's territory. I accuse them of conduct incompatible with the principles of human solidarity. In particular, I charge the American "Free Europe" radio station with unjustified and unfounded, but deliberate actions aimed at scaring Poland's population. The station aimed at spreading panic throughout Poland, at whipping up the emotions and using them to pitch the public moods against our state authorities. Poles' common sense and composure on one hand and the low credibility of the information broadcast from Munich by the American radio station on the other prevented the RFE from reaching its objectives. The aim was to use the accident for political ends, to spread panic here, the results of which would be incalculable in the days when part of Poland's society was upset and anxious. The RFE provocations were hitting out at the vital interests of the entire Polish society. The RFE lies thus assumed an inhuman character.

Examples: On May 2, Radio Free Europe screamed hysterically that Poland's authorities were concealing the perils for Poland's population, that the operation of giving children iodine was started too late. Let me further quote: "Poland's authorities prefer to be silent instead of saving the population with extensive and detailed information on the danger and preventive measures." Unquote.

The RFE further said that information was concealed about the increase of radioactivity on Poland's territory by 50 to 100 times, that the government was withholding this information from the nation. Free Europe did not add, however, that this radiation level, although many times higher than before the reactor broke down, did not pose any health hazards, and was very far from the safety limits for human organisms, as American experts later confirmed. The 100-fold increase of radiation sounds frightful, and the point was to scare people in Poland, leading them to dispair and spread panic.

On May 4, Radio Free Europe quoted American newspapers in such a way as to spread horror and distrust in Poland in what the authorities were saying. It claimed the government commission lied by stating there was no hazard to health and life in Poland. The evacuation of the families of various embassy staffs was to prove that. Note that no such evacuation has actually taken place, and the urge to leave was caused by wrong estimation of the situation.

"The evacuation proves that other governments are more worried about the radiation level than the Polish authorities," RFE cried out. "Polish society does not know where exactly the threat lies and what it is. Consequently, it is not immediately known where one should refrain from eating the most contaminated food products." abetted the RFE.

Radio Free Europe tried at any cost to undermine the confidence in the assurances, recommendations, and actions taken by Polish authorities. If it managed to reach these ends under existing circumstances, chaos and panic would have been the result.

On May 2, for instance, RFE cried out to the inhabitants of the Mazury, the north-eastern region of Poland, that they were sleeping peacefully while being exposed to a 500-fold radiation level, and that the government was silent, deliberately endangering even those who were going to spend their holidays in the Mazury unaware of the danger. (I shall refer to the issue of Mikolajki later).

Quoting *WASHINGTON POST*, the Voice of America beamed the worries of individual Poles who erroneously thought the danger real, and were certain they learned about it too late and did not take the necessary measures to protect themselves and their children in time. The station was astounding Poles, quoting, for instance, a pregnant women as saying "I could not help myself, and now nobody can help me." The intentions behind beaming individual statements by a subversive radio station can only be imagined. The station extensively quoted various rubbish published by Poland's underground on leaflets issued on this occasion.

In its May 2 broadcasts, the French radio described an apocalyptic image of Poland quoting the liberation daily — people besieging drugstores, which did not have any radiation-protective medicine available anyway, phsycians waken up in the middle of the night did not know what to do because of lack of proper instruction.

Children-protective methods depend upon radiation level, but the latter is kept secret by the government. I quote: "Gigantic queues are lining-up in front of drugstores and hospitals; the preventive operation at schools proves futile." The radio further maintained that instead of informing people, Polish authorities made jokes of the population, and a certain general admitted on the TV that milk quality is not being monitored, but the cow breeders' conscience is being appealed to. All this is obvious rubbish, broadcast with ill will at a highly inopportune moment.

After several days of attempts at spreading panic in Poland and leading the population to despair, after attempts to undermine, in such a delicate moment, social confidence in our authorities,

their information and recommendations, a sudden change occured in Western propganda.

It was confirmed — based on the research conducted by Western experts — that Poland had not been and was not threatened with radiation. It was confirmed, for instance, by the American Department of State and the British authorities. An American Government expert who arrived in Warsaw found the results of his measurements to be the same as those reported by Polish authorities. It was stated that the information policy of Polish authorities was open and honest. It was also published that all preventive measures taken by Polish authorities, including the ones aimed at human health protection, were proper and prudent, and introduced on time. This was admitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna yesterday.

The Polish-lanauge Western radio stations did not retract their previous lies, though. And no apologies appeared in the Western press saying "we did not tell the truth, we are sorry."

Let me ask in public: By what right has it been attempted to spread panic, despair, and distrust in Poland? In the name of what human rights has it been done? How is it possible for the Western journalists to express even their justified doubts in a fashion so inhuman to Polish mothers, who were told anybody cared for their dimpled children? Where was the human solidarity, the sense of responsibility and good intentions of the initiators of this provocative campaign?

I accuse some of the Western forces of resorting to mean methods in their struggle against Polish authorities, thus taking for nothing the security and nerves of Polish society.

In this context I would like to comment on the declarations of some Western governments, foundations, and organizations concerning their readiness to aid Poland by sending food and medications. We are very thankful, but under the existing circumstances these undertakings are in majority superfluous. Poland did not run short of the necessary iodine medication. Despite some disturbances in retail sales, we did not run short of noncontaminated food either. Only a shortage of powdered milk was noted, followed by immediate purchases of proper Polish institutions. The transports of imported milk are on their way.

We are cordially grateful to all organizations which desire to help us in meeting our market's increased demand for powdered milk. We have always been, and still are grateful for any aid based on humanitarian grounds. We would like to tell some Western governments and political forces so eager all of a sudden to help us what follows:

"Stop harming Poland, and that is all. It is the best and free aid you can send to Poland."

As a state official in charge of informing, I would like to state that Poland's society has been kept informed honestly and in due time on the existing contamination, possible health hazards, and appropriate preventive measures.

The measuring equipment registered the presence of first contamination in the air over Poland on Monday, April 28. That resulted in a series of measurements of soil, water and air contaminations reaching as far up as to the stratosphere. The measurements had to be analysed in order to draw proper conclusions. Late Monday night appropriate services concluded we had a significant contamination of the air over a considerable part of Poland with radioactive iodine. When this became apparent, a government commission was set up with Vice-Premier Zbigniew Szalajda in chair, and a first communique was issued on Tuesday Morning, April 29th. Afterwards, communiques was issued daily. They presented honestly the existing situation. Experts were invited twice to answer questions on TV. The range of contamination was published in detail as soon as it could be determined based on several days' measurements.

It is true we did not report daily where the air, grass or milk contamination was the highest in Poland at a given moment. We did not do so because the radiation levels were nowhere near the hazardous limits at any point or time in Poland. Reporting the current contamination figures for various parts of Poland was superfluous from the point of view of human health protection. On the other hand it could lead to unnecessary anxiety, resulting in various unnecessary reflexes. It could cause, for instance, a shifting of a part of Poland's population from one place to another, and that would make no sense. First, because nowhere and at no time was anybody in danger (except, in some regions, for children drinking milk from pastured cows). Second, because the radiation levels here were changing quickly, and whoever fled less contaminated regions, could find himself at a place more contaminated than his previous whereabouts.

Let me illustrate the problems of our information policy by referring to the example of the town of Mikolajki, north-eastern Poland. One of our experts told the foreign press the highest contamination level was reported in Mikolajki, and that it totalled 500 times the natural radiation level.

500 times more — that sounds frightening. How could a man with no knowledge of radiation whatsoever react to the news he has been exposed to radiation 500 times higher than the normal? Western radio stations stirred panic without understanding, or wanting to understand the meaning of the information broadcast to Western correspondents. In Mikolajki, neither, nobody was threatened with irradiated air. Let me use an analogy here. Let us imagine a room, where nobody ever smoked. If suddenly someone lights up a cigarette there, a measurement apparatus could indicate the smokiness to rise 500 times in comparison to the previous condition. It does not mean, though, that anyone could get poisoned with nicotine by entering the room.

Meanwhile, Western radio stations broadcast the news on Mikolajki in an alarming fasion. A *WASHINGTON POST* journalist went there and reported that nobody in Mikolajki was aware of the danger. Let me repeat: There was no danger in Mikolajki. The American journalist lamented the town's shops and schools are opened. The town has been stricken a blow, he despaired. People were already feeling sick; they had head and stomachaches. The naughty authorities said, in turn, that it had

nothing to do with the radiation and administered children with iodine preparations.

Any man could get nausea or a stomachache when he is told he has been exposed to radiation 500 times higher than normal.

We said in general that the largest contamination was registered in north-eastern Poland. We did not specify, though, the exact location of size of the contamination since, I repeat, human health was nowhere threatened, nobody had to flee, no schools had to be closed down, and nobody fell ill because of radiation. Had we informed the way *THE WASHINGTON POST* did, we would have stirred unnecessary panic and hysteria. It is not easy to explain to the entire nation the complicated matters concerning the kinds of radiation, safety standards, etc. Thus our information policy was open, we informed the people fast, but only in such a detail as it was called for.

At present, the Western press changed its opinion, without retracting the previous ones, considering our policy correct and right. The *CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR* called our communiques open, fast, honest, and increasing the authorities' credibility.

Similar views were expressed by the Swiss *TAGES ANZEIGER*. Analogical statements were made by some American papers, and even by some American officials. Why all of a sudden the praise of the same information policy that yesterday was called a criminal suppression of truth?

The reason has to do with a new unfair game. The point here is to construct contradictions of an anti-Soviet edge. This is a new kind of the same political game carried on by a part of the Western press from the very beginning, preying on the Chernobyl nuclear power station breakdown. It is not the first Western attempt to use Poland as an instrument in setting up contradictions of this kind. It will not be a more efficient attempt than the other ones aimed at upsetting the Polish-Soviet relations of friendship and confidence.

On behalf of Polish authorities let me express our sympathy with the Soviet citizens who suffered in result of the nuclear plant's breakdown. I also express our deep sympathy with the families of the persons who died as a result of this tragic mishap.

Speaking next on the measures adopted following the reports on the increased amount of radioactive iodine in the air over Poland, Urban stated:

"After the breakdown at the nuclear power station in Ukraine, weather conditions were particularly unfavourable for Poland. Contamination — which one could have hardly anticipated — advanced mostly towards Poland.

"We adopted a particular kind of safety measure, and we kept people informed about them. The preventive measures were adopted just in case. Fortunately, no real, direct threat to human health occurred.

"We started to act when the contamination measurements over Poland informed about them. The preventive measures were adopted just in case. Fortunately, no real, direct threat to human health occurred.

"We started to act when the contamination measurements over Poland justified it. We were not late either with preventive measures or with providing information. We denied the existence of any threat from the very beginning. Thus, we could not have been warned against danger — as Western press would wish — as there was no danger.

"Both sides, however, were drawing conclusions from the situation which had developed. After all, it is a new experience, unprecedented in our region. The thing is to unify safety standards and principles concerning the level of contamination and the time at which the sides should notify one another on the issue," Urban went on.

"According to today's press reports on Vice-Premier Szalajda's meeting with Soviet experts, this work started to make it possible to draw all the necessary conclusions for the future, including ones on the systems and principles of notifying one another, stemming from the effects of the breakdown at Chernobyl," Urban stated.

Next Spokesman Jerzy Urban and his guest, Deputy Chairman of the State Atomic Agency Andrzej Rodowicz, answered many questions, mostly about the degree of the radioactivity threat which occurred over Poland April 28 - May 2 this year.

Presenting detailed data on the state of radioactivity in Poland following the breakdown in the Ukrainian nuclear power plant, Rodowicz stressed that there was not one moment after stations registered increased amounts of radioactive elements in the atmosphere Monday afternoon in which the state of health of the population was endangered.

The average national contamination of the atmosphere with radioactive iodine was five times lower than the Polish norm and fifty times lower than the international norm.

As far as the amount of radiation from external sources received by the populace throughout 4 days equal to 25 milirems is concerned, it was 4 times lower than the annual amount and twenty times lower than the Polish norm and 400 times lower than the alert level recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

On the other hand, the level of radioactive contamination of milk was in some cases exceeded to some extent, and in the north-eastern parts of Poland was above the norm recommended by the IAEA. This caused an immediate response of the government commission which banned open-air grazing of cows, Radowicz said.

Rodowicz also stated that no increased presence of strontium in the atmosphere was registered in Poland and that the level of other radioactive elements, such as caesium and tellurium, did not exceed trace amounts. He added that a report on the radiological situation in Poland was submitted to the management of the IAEA in Vienna on Monday.

Asked for a presentation of an estimate of losses sustained as a result of the radioactive contamination, Urban stated that they were not estimated but added it was certain they were not high and wound down primarily to the costs of supplying 10 million Polish children with a preventive amount of iodine and redistributing milk.

Neither did he share fears showed by some Western newsmen as to the consequences of the existing state of affairs for Polish food exports. "Food exported by Poland is being appropriately tested," he said and added: "I cannot imagine either that the EEC countries could make a decision banning imports of food from Poland. If such a decision was made, however, then, I cannot imagine that the ban on Polish food imports could last longer than the process of radioactive disintegration."

Asked whether the Polish Government intended to ask the Soviet Government to compensate for the losses caused by the radioactive fallout, Urban once again stressed that these losses were not too big. "In the whole of Polish-Soviet cooperation and in the context of great assistance extended to Poland by the Soviet Union, this issue is not of such a dimension as to be raised separately," the spokesman said.

Answering other questions, Urban stated that the Polish authorities had no information about any Polish citizen staying in the USSR to have been affected by the breakdown at the Ukrainian power station. Next, he pointed out that the Polish standards of radioactive danger are far stricter that the international ones and stressed once again the great speed with which the Polish authorities had taken appropriate preventive measures, as well as honesty and responsibility which characterized the authorities' policy of providing information in the period of radioactive fallout in Poland.

Poland's Reply To U.S. Restrictions

Urban also briefed the conference on the Polish Government's reply to the introduction by the U.S. of curbs on travel by the staff of Polish diplomatic missions in the U.S. as of last January 6.

"I would like to stress once again that curbs on travel within the U.S. imposed on the staff of the Polish Embassy in Washington, the commercial counsellor's office and the Orbis Travel Office in New York, as well as on the staff of Poland's general consulates in New York and Chicago and on families of employees of all these missions are the violation of international law, and particularly of immunities and privileges contained in the Vienna conventions on diplomatic and consular relations, the signatories of which are both Poland and the U.S. These moves also run counter to international customs and are clearly of a discriminatory character.

"I have already said that the Polish side proposed the U.S. side to hold talks in order to totally lift these restrictions. Such talks were held in Warsaw.

"Despite the Polish side's insistence, the talks have not resultedin the lifting by the U.S. curbs introduced on last January 6. In this situation, Poland was forced to apply real reciprocity as of May 1," Urban said.

"The point was to introduce restrictions corresponding in the sense of the degree of inconvenience to those applied by the U.S. side. Because of the basic difference in size of the Polish and U.S. territories and, in connection with this, more frequent use of other means of transport, the introduction by the Polish side of the same curbs as those imposed by the U.S. side would not provide the same control over travelling by the U.S. missions' staff as the one already exercised by the U.S. over the employees of Polish missions in the U.S.

"Thus, it was introduced as a rule that the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw and the U.S. consulates in Krakow and Poznan must notify in the Foreign Ministry's diplomatic protocol about every trip by their employees and their families outside the voivodship in which the mission is based. The obligation of notifying excludes heads of diplomatic missions in the two countries.

"I would like to stress that the Polish side will lift these limitations on travel as soon as the U.S. side lifts its curbs imposed on last January 6 through a unilateral decision of the U.S. authorities," said Urban.

Attempts To Disturb Public Order

Answering next a couple of questions concerning recent attempts to disturb public order in Poland, Urban disclosed that on May 4 militiamen apprehended a group of people, including Western correspondents, who gathered on a road leading to the locality of Machowa, Tarnow Voivodship, where the grave of Otto Schimke is situated. These people were apprehended to explain the causes of the gathering. "No person was arrested," the spokesman said.

Urban also stated he had no information about the number of people arrested for illegal attempts to disturb the May Day celebrations and the celebrations of this year's anniversary of the May 3rd Constitution. He added that some of them had already appeared before a misdemeanour court.

Commenting on the security measures undertaken by the authorities ahead of May Day and May 3rd to head off illegal demonstrations Urban emphasized, replying to a question, that the "cost of such an operation constituted barely a fraction of the expences borne by Poland in 1981 when demonstrations and strikes were daily routine."

CYPRUS

Slight Increase in Radiation Level in Some Areas

NC070730 Nicosia CYPRUS MAIL in English
7 May 86 p 1

[Text] The presence of fallout in the atmosphere, following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, does not as yet pose any threat to public health in Cyprus.

In a statement though, the government has admitted that a slight increase in the level of radiation has already been detected in some areas of Cyprus.

According to the statement, weather conditions and wind directions prevailing in the Eastern Mediterranean will further reduce radiation levels in the atmosphere.

It seems that the rainfall over the weekend was the result of clouds coming from the Balkans where radiation levels were higher. Government sources suggested that this should not cause any alarm as rainfall in the Balkan area preceded the southbound movement of the cloud.

The members of the European Economic Community have already announced a ban on the importation of fresh fruits, meat, milk and vegetables from Eastern Europe. The Cyprus Government has not yet indicated whether it will adopt similar measures.

FINLAND

Contamination Rising; No Restrictions Necessary

LD052111 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish
2000 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Here at home, the Institute of Radiation Protection reports a clear increase in amounts of Iodine-131 in milk south of Kokkola and Kajani. However, the institute sess no need yet for restrictions. According to the institute's report, the highest measured amount of radioactive iodine has been 50 Becquerel per litre. The limit for rejecting milk is 2,000 Becquerel per liter. The amount of radiation in Finland is still decreasing. At most the amount of radiation all over the country is 4.2 milliroentgen an hour, or over ten times the amount of natural background radiation. Radiation is decreasing at the predicted rate, that is, halving in about 6 days, said special researcher Leif Blomqvist of the Institute of Radiation Protection today. Use of rain water should still be avoided. Children should also to be prevented from playing in mud or dried mud puddles.

FRANCE

Radioactive Traces Diminish to Pre-Chernobyl Level

LD071047 Paris Domestic Service in French
1000 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] There are no longer any traces of radioactivity in the skies of France. This is reported this morning by the central department for the protection against ionising radiation. The director of the department, Professor Pellerin, in fact points out that the analyses made at his laboratory confirm that radioactivity in the air has returned to practically the same level as that preceding the accident at the Soviet nuclear power station in Chernobyl. There is still one exception: the southeast, where radioactivity still remains slightly higher but is nothing to worry about.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Soviet Embassy Seeks Advice on Reactor Aftermath

LD061237 Hamburg DPA in German
1136 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] [No dateline as received] — The Soviet Embassy in Bonn has today once again approached the German Nuclear Forum for information about how to tackle the reactor accident in Chernobyl. It was said afterwards that Embassy Second Secretary Aleksandr I. Chagayev enquired about ways to tackle the molten mass inside the burnt-out reactor, which is apparently still very hot.

According to a spokesman for German Nuclear Forum, Chagayev was referred to relevant German nuclear energy experts. In order to help solve the problem it is, however, necessary that all available data be made available by the Soviets to the German experts to enable them to do the necessary calculations. The first objective is to cool down the molten mass.

The Karlsruhe Nuclear Research Center, which was approached directly by the Soviet diplomat through the intermediary of the German Nuclear Forum, has said it is prepared to offer help in solving the problem of the meltdown in the Soviet reactor (Chernobyl). The research center spokesman referred to experiences made by Karlsruhe with a special program in which the interaction of meltdown with the concrete of the reactor foundation was examined.

The Karlsruhe Nuclear Research center is prepared, he said, to undertake relevant calculations in the case of the Soviet reactor, possibly with the help of Soviet experts. However, one condition is that relevant data of the amount and composition of the meltdown and type of the concrete foundation be submitted.

Chancellor Kohl Remarks on Incident

LD061020 Hamburg DPA in German
0911 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Tokyo, 6 May (DPA) — Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, following the economic summit in Tokyo, emphasized on Tuesday that the Federal Government's nuclear policy would continue to give priority to "the concern for the well-being of the individual and his health."

The chancellor emphasized that the security measures for nuclear power stations are already today "very big" in the Federal Republic. Kohl said it is irresponsible for "certain political forces" to try "to derive political benefit from the reactor accident in the Soviet Union."

The seven participating states in the summit meeting, the United States, Canada, Japan, Great Britain, France, Italy,and the Federal Republic, especially at the urging of Kohl, adopted a statement on the reactor accident in the Soviet Union, which called for substantially more precise details and higher safety standards.

Radiation Readings Show 3 Areas Remain Above Normal

LD070858 Hamburg DPA in German
0823 GMT 7 May 86

[Excerpt] Bonn, 7 May (DPA) — According to the Federal Interior Ministry on Wednesday, normal readings for radioactive radiation in the air were reached to a large extent at 9 of the 12 measurement points throughout Federal German Territory at 0500. As ministry spokesman Michael-Andreas Butz stated, the readings fluctuate in each case according to the weather sitution within the bandwidth for natural radiation between 2 and 10 Becquerels. Regensburg with 29.9 Becquerels per cubic meter of air, Norderney with 26.0 Becquerels and Essen with 18.3 Becquerels are the exceptions.

Government sources in Bonn, referring to soil tests conducted in the regions, confirmed that the radiation readings in the ground are still considerably higher in some instances. These readings, however, are a long way away from being dangerous to health.

Franz Kroppenstedt, state secretary in the Federal Interior Ministry, announced after another round of talks with radiation proection and health experts from the regions that the Radiation protection Commission, which will meet again Wednesday, will also deal with the question of possible precautionary measures during leisure time activity.

Latest Atmospheric Radioactivity Levels Reported

LD060935 Hamburg DPA in German 0859 GMT
6 May 86

[Excerpt] Bonn, 6 May (DPA) — Radioactivity levels in the atmosphere as a result of the Soviet reactor accident have fallen past the half-way mark of the 12-point scale, according to the Interior Ministry today. The levels sank especially in southern Bavaria. While a level of 34.0 Bequerel per cubic meter was measured in Munich on Monday at 0500, this dropped to 9.2 Bequerel by the same time on Tuesday. The highest level of 39.0 Bequerel was measured in Regensburg on Tuesday morning, followed by Noderney with 27 Bequerel.

Michael-Andreas Butz, Interior Ministry spokesman, assured DPA that there is still no acute danger to the health of FRG citizens. A large number of atmospheric radiation measures are already within the natural radioactivity range of 2-10 Bequerel.

GREECE

Papandreou on Proposals for Worldwide Nuclear Safety

NC061903 Athens Domestic Service in Greek
1800 GMT 6 May 86

[Statement by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou; date and place not given — read by announcer]

[Text] The nuclear accident at Chernobyl is a final, most forceful, and dramatic warning to all peoples and political leaders. Regardless of the scientifically sound measures to curb this phenomenon and to combat its repercussions which have been successful both in Europe and in our country, an enormous political and moral responsibility toward mankind has emerged.

In cooperation with other countries, Greece has begun a great effort to achieve peace and avoid a nuclear disaster. However, it is time for the political leaders of the great countries to stop indulging in wishful thinking and mutual denunciations, and to consider what such a disaster may mean for every man and for the entire world.

With these thoughts, and today, when a certain balance has returned to Europe, the Greek Government intends to place the issue directly before the summit conference of the 12. The initiative of the Six will intensify simultaneously; indeed, the six are already acting in this direction. In addition to our well-known position in favor of peace, arms reduction, and the withdrawal of nuclear weapons, we shall ask for the following measures:

First, a moratorium on nuclear tests.

Second, open inspections of all reactors without exception, not only by the International Atomic Energy Agency, but by the World Health Organization as well.

Third, a responsible, continuous, and automatic mutual briefing on any incident involving reactors.

Fourth, a halt to the production of breeder reactors. Their construction is fraght with peril, and threatens to transform humanity from a society of people to one of plutonium. Of course, the peoples of the world will not allow this, and billions will certainly wage a struggle to remain human.

Spokesman on Soviet Disclosure of Nuclear Data

NC062005 Athens Domestic Service in Greek
1830 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] In response to a journalist's question on Greece's position toward the USSR, which did not announce the accident in Chernobyl immediately, the government spokesman made the following statement: Indeed, membership in the international energy organization, of which the Soviet Union is part, brings with it an obligation to provide information on nuclear accidents at once. However, the immediate release of data does not apply to the Soviet Union alone. There have been similar occurrences

and behavior in the past. Our position is that information should be given.

Public Advised on Consumption of Milk, Vegetables
NC052101 Athens Domestic Service in Greek
2000 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Acting on instructions from the prime minister, the body for interministerial coordination met today and was joined by a scientific committee of professors and other experts in order to deal with the consequences of the Soviet nuclear accident in Chernobyl.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Health and Welfare made the following announcement after the conference: All of Europe faces the repercussions of the nuclear accident. Increased levels of radiation are still present in Greece, but they show no upward trend and have not exceeded tolerable limits. Due to today's meteorological activity, it has been determined that radioactive substances have settled on grass, and, consequently, may be in the food of certain animals, particularly goats and sheep that graze in the open.

Therefore, it is recommended: a) that the consumption of milk, especially that of goats and sheep, and specifically by young children, be avoided. This milk can be used later without any danger. Obviously, preserved [sindirimeno] milk is absolutely safe. b) That the consumption of vegetables, especially those that are difficult to wash, be avoided. We stress that there is no problem with water drawn from supply networks, underground sources, and covered reservoirs. These measures are similar to those taken by other European countries which have faced and are facing similar or greater concentrations of radioactivity.

Imports of Unchecked Foods Prohibited
NC061948 Athens Domestic Service in Greek
1830 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] The Ministry of Commerce has asked the Ministry of Finance not to permit any imports of fresh milk, fruit, and vegetables, as well as meat from lambs and goats, to clear customs unless they have been checked in advance for radioactive contamination. Meanwhile, the state's General Chemical Laboratory and Dhimokritos [state laboratory for nuclear research] have been instructed to organize a system that will allow these inspections to be carried out.

NORWAY

USSR Envoy Briefs Willoch on Chernobyl Incident
PM070905 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian
2 May 86 p 11

[Arne Halvorsen report: "We Are in Control"]

[Text] Minister-Counselor Aleksandr Smirnov at the Soviet Embassy in Oslo yesterday visited Prime Minister Willoch's office to give a report on the accident at the nuclear power station near Kiev. Minister-Counselor Smirnov claimed that the leak of radioactive material has now been reduced. The Soviet Embassy is now giving the impression that the reactor accident is under control.

Minister-Counselor Smirnov's mission was to give Prime Minister Willoch the latest official Soviet information about the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Smirnov told Willoch that the three remaining power stations have been shut down. However, he said nothing about the totals of dead and injured as a result of the accident.

The embassy report states: "As a result of the measures that have been taken the leak of radioactive material and the level of radiation in the area have been reduced in the last few days.

"The measurements which have been carried out show that a chain reaction is not taking place in the nuclear fuel. The reactor is in a dampened-down state [i en neddempet tilstand]. Active work to clean the polluted parts is being carried out.

"The Soviet Union has at its disposal sufficient material, scientific, and technological potential for the work to eliminate the consequences of the accident. At the present stage there is no need for the collaboration of other governments," the report states. A Soviet commission of investigation led by one of the country's deputy prime ministers has been set up to look into the accident.

In talks Under Secretary of State at the Prime Minister's Office Nils Morten Udgaard had with Minister-Counselor Smirnov he stressed that expert Norwegian authorities need more concrete information of a scientific nature in order to be able to form a more reliable picture of the possible effects of the accident.

SPAIN

Antinuclear Protests Increase After Chernobyl
LD060926 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish
0800 GMT 6 May 86

[Excerpt] In Spain, the Chernobyl accident caused new antinuclear protests. Yesterday in Valencia a group of demonstrators demanded the closing of the nuclear power station in Cofrentes,and in Extremadura the constant controversy over Almaraz [nuclear power stations] has caused the first crisis of that autonomous government. Its premier, Juan Carlos Rodriguez Ibara, dismissed the regional minister of public works and enviroment following the statements he made denouncing supposed irregularies in the functioning of the almaraz nuclear power station, irregularities which have been denied by the spokesman for the firm, Antonio Bustamante. The regional minister of public works also talked about the opening of the nuclear power station of Valdecaballeros, Badajoz, following next year's autonomous elections. Both the premier of the autonomous regional government of Extremadura and the minister of industry have denied it.

Finally the nuclear power station at Asco, Tarragona registered faults in its system that caused a partial shutdown. The faults were repaired, and the nuclear power station is now working normally.

SWEDEN

Politicians React to Chernobyl Incident

PM061339 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 30 Apr 86 p 7

[Willy Silberstein report: "Nonsocialists Called for Improved Safety"]

[Text] The nonsocialist opposition on the Energy Council yesterday afternoon called for information from Energy Minister Birgitta Dahl on the Soviet reactor accident in order to be able to propose possible improvements to safety at the Swedish nuclear power stations.

The Energy Council is the energy minister's consultative body whose function it is to discuss longer-term energy questions.

Yesterday several Riksdag deputies submitted questions to the energy minister as a result of the Soviet accident. One of them was Center Party Deputy Chairman Olof Johansson.

He told *SVENSKA DAGBLADET* that what has happened once again underlines the special importance of the question of the rundown of nuclear power in Sweden.

"What has happened means that we really do need to remember that it is by 2010 'at the latest' that nuclear power will be run down." Johansson also wants Sweden to discuss with Denmark "seriously and without precondition" whether Barseback nuclear power station should be closed.

His party colleague, Lennart Daleus, who led Line 3 [No to nuclear power, and immediate shutdown of power stations] in the referendum on nuclear power, takes the view that the incident in the Soviet Union shows the true face of nuclear power — accidents, cleanups, anxiety, and monitoring.

"The rescue work at Forsmark also gives rise to some concern. Before it was clear that the leak had not come from Forsmark long lines [of people] had formed. This could have been very dangerous if there really had been an emergency." In a question to Energy Minister Birgitta Dahl the Left Party-Communists' Viola Claesson has called for a plan to assess the risks at each nuclear power station. She also wants a date for the closure of each power station.

Not everyone in the Riksdag is as worried. Social Democrat Nils Erik Waag said that he does not know any of the details of what happened in the Soviet Union. But "if it was only radioactive steam which leaked it cannot have been that serious." "I have been on the nuclear power inspection board and I know that we have one of the world's safest systems." Moderate Coalition Party member Per Unckell, active for line 1 [retention of nuclear power] during the referendum, thinks that those opposed to nuclear power will use the accident as an argument for rundown.

But even though it is difficult we must make comparisons with the alternatives. It would surprise me if Swedish nuclear power is more dangerous than energy from coal, which is what remains. The Moderate Coalition thinks that it is wrong to close down nuclear power stations if they are still working in 2010.

"That year was not included on any of the voting slips in the referendum; it was decided on later by the Riksdag." The Liberal Party's Hadar Cars said that only when we know what happened will it be possible to say whether what has happened will have any political significance.

"The result of the referendum must continue to apply. If carbon dioxide proves to be a real problem to the extent that it might be necessary to tear up the referendum result, a new referendum will be needed." The People's Campaign Against Nuclear Power has decided to hold a meeting in Stockholm 1 May as a result of what has happened. The theme of the meeting will be "Nuclear Power in Crisis."

Ban on Food From E. Europe Temporarily Lifted

LD052047 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1600 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] The National Food Administration decided today to temporarily lift the ban on imports of fresh meat and fish from Eastern Europe, in effect since the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. The import ban has already been lifted for fresh vegetables and root fruits. The goods may (?be re-exported only) after checking by the National Food Administration. Milk products and cheese will also be checked. The ban on imports still applies to fresh goods from the Soviet Union.

Farmers in the provinces of Skaraborg and Sodra Alvsborg may now also allow their cows to graze, according to the Institute of Radiation Protection. Earlier today permission was given to farmers in Blekinge to allow their animals to graze, because radioactivity has now lessened.

BRAZIL

Incoming Airplanes Checked for Radioactivity

PY061335 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo Network in Portuguese 0300 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] The National Commission for Nuclear Energy is checking all airplanes arriving in Brasilia from Europe for radioactivity caused by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union. So far, only one person registered a slight trace of radioactivity.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

USSR Rejects West's Criticism on Chernobyl

OW070624 Beijing XINHUA in English 0555 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 6 (XINHUA) — A high-ranking Soviet official said today the criticism by the Tokyo summit leaders about the Chernobyl nuclear accident had not been accepted as valid by Soviet leaders although, he added, it did have a positive aspect.

Anatoliy Kovalev, first deputy foreign minister, said the statement of the Tokyo summit had "an objective and on the whole positive nature" but the reproach of the Soviet Union for not giving detailed and complete information on the Chernobyl accident "cannot be accepted."

The leaders of the United States, Japan, Britain, France, Federal Germany, Italy and Canada issued a statement during their Tokyo summit yesterday which called on every country to provide detailed and complete information on nuclear emergencies and accidents and urged the Soviet Government to "urgently" provide such information.

At a press conference, Kovalev said "as soon as we came to know particulars of the situation in the area of the accident, we started issuing information and do so almost every day."

He said that when a nuclear accident occurred in the United States in 1979, government officials did not know causes of the accident "at once." "It supplied the information to the U.S. Senate ten days after," he noted.

Kovalev said that "inventions, falsehoods that are heaped up around the Chernobyl accident have a clearly hostile attitude underlying them."

The deputy minister also said the Soviet Union and director-general of the International Atomic Agency Hans Blix, who arrived here yesterday to discuss the Chernobyl accident, agreed that the safe use of atomic energy exclusively for peaceful constructive purposes "called for extensive international cooperation."

The Soviet Union desired such cooperation, he added.

JAPAN

Tokyo Summit Urges More Information on Chernobyl

OW060359 Tokyo KYODO in English 0351 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 (KYODO) — The United States believes the Soviet Union has not yet released to the world sufficient information on the Chernobyl reactor accident, a White House spokesman said Tuesday.

The Tokyo summit of seven industrialized countries Monday issued a declaration demanding that Moscow provide more detailed reports on the reactor disaster in late April in the Soviet Ukraine.

Speakes said the U.S. "welcomes" the Soviet announcement monday that it will allow officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect the accident site.

The announcement said foreign experts will be allowed to make the trip to the Chernobyl plant "as soon as the radioactivity has decreased to a point where this is possible."

"We still don't have sufficient information to make the kinds of judgments we need to make," Speakes said of the lack of information on the accident.

The statement issued by the leaders of Japan, the United States, Canada, Britain, France, West Germany and Italy gathered in Tokyo for the summit Monday expressed their readiness to extend medical and technical assistance for the Soviet accident, and urged early elaboration of an international convention in the event of nuclear emergencies or accidents.

Speakes refused to comment on a monday report on cbs news that the u.s. is considering using air-launched cruise missiles if it attacks Libya again.

In Tuesday's press briefing Speakes also outlined the plans of U.S. officials following the Tokyo summit.

Secretary of State George Shultz will go with Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Gaston Sigur to Seoul and Manila to meet with leaders of both countries.

Shultz will meet with South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong for an annual ministerial meeting.

Treasury Secretary James Baker will go to Beijing for annual Sino-U.S. joint economic meetings on Wednesday and Thursday.

W. Allen Wallis, undersecretary of state for economic affairs, will go to Singapore for "extensive economic consultations" with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He will be in Australia Thursday and Friday to brief Prime Minister Bob Hawke on the summit.

'Mild Radioactivity' Found in Milk in West

HK061332 Hong Kong AFP in English
1322 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 (AFP) — Mild radioactivity, apparently from the crippled Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union, has been found in water and milk in western Japan, local government officials said Tuesday.

The officials in Shimane Prefecture's Matsue City, western Japan, said that they had detected 10.76 picocuries of radioactive Iodine 131 per liter of milk sampled Sunday and 0.35 picocuries per liter of water sampled the same day.

Radioactive Iodine 131 does not exist in the natural environment, according to scientists.

The officials said that radioactive contamination of milk and water in Matsue was too slight to be dangerous.

Radioactivity of 624 picocuries per liter was found in rainwater sampled Sunday and Monday in Kochi, also in western Japan, but the contamination level also posed no danger, Kochi officials said.

Japanese central government officials said Monday that radioactivity believed to have leaked from the Chernobyl plant had been detected in rain and floating dust in 16 prefectures of Japan. But they added that the radiation levels were not high enough to pose a health risk.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Radioactive Dust Detected in Rainwater

HK060458 Hong Kong AFP in English
0452 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (AFP) — Scientists have detected radioactive dust in South Korea and have linked the contamination with the nuclear accident in the Soviet Union ten days ago, the Science and Technology Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said that scientists had found 1,500 picocuries (PCI) of Iodine-131 in one litre of rainwater falling over Chungju, southeast of Seoul, Monday night.

Besides, it said they also found 900 PCI of Ruthenium-103, as well as 10 PCI of Cobalt-60 in the rain water samples. Scientists believed it was linked to the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster, the ministry said. It, however, added that this amount of radioactivity in rain would not be harmful to health, but warned against drinking rainwater.

The report is the second in Asia following Japanese scientists traced abnormally high radiation levels in central Japan last Friday and Saturday which they also believed to be teh result of the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident near Kiev.

Precise Security Checks Due on Five Nuclear Reactors

SK070303 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP) — The South Korean Government plans to make precise security checks on the nation's five nuclear reactors, the Science and Technology Ministry's Radiation Protection Committee announced Tuesday.

A team comprising 24 nuclear experts from the ministry, the Korea Energy Research Institute and the Korea Electric Power Corp. will conduct the checks over a two-week period, according to the committee.

It will make the checks in five classified fields — engineering safety, fire protection, accident prevention capability, operating capability and environmental monitoring.

The committee, headed by Vice Science and Technology Minister Kwon Won-ki, was set up in the wake of the Chernobyl accident near the Soviet city of Ukraine [as received] late last month.

The committee has determined that Korea's nuclear power plants are safe because they utilize pressurized water reactors, which are quite different from the boiling water reactors used at the Soviet plants and because the Korean reactors are equipped with sufficient disaster protection systems.

The committee also plans to invite to Korea the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA's) operational safety review team and nuclear specialists from the (U.S.) Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) to conduct further checks, in accordance with international standards, as soon as possible, a ministry official said.

Nuclear power has emerged as a major source of power in Korea, which is poor in energy resources. Four nuclear power plants are now operating in Korea and a fifth will go into test operations at the end of this month, according to the official.

The five atomic reactors' combined generating capacity of 3,600 megawatts accounts for 37 percent of Korea's total power supply, he said.

An additional four reactors now under construction are scheduled for completion by September 1989, he added.

KUWAIT

Chernobyl Poses No 'Serious Dangers' for Area

LD061643 Kuwait KUNA in English
1319 GMT 6 May 86

[Excerpt] Geneva, May 6 (KUNA) — The fire and subsequent leak of radioactivity from a Soviet nuclear power station did not pose any serious dangers for Kuwait or the Gulf region, Kuwait's public health and planning minister said Tuesday.

Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi, in comments to journalists, stated that "there is not much of an alarm in this year".

"Up to now there is no danger to our region. Of course continuous monitoring is taking place both in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait regarding the sensing of any radioactive material coming", the minister observed.

"Even if it reaches us, it will be so diluted that it will not have any effect on health," he went on.

Dr al-'Awadi stressed that there had been no problem so far over contamination of food products in the Gulf as a result of the leak of radioactivity.

Ambassador Says Students in Kiev Safe, Happy

LD062326 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1913 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 6 May (KUNA) — 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Du'ayj, Kuwaiti ambassador to the Soviet Union said here today that the psychological and educational situation of the Kuwait students in the Soviet city of Kiev is "good and does not arouse concern".

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Du'ayj pointed out that the clamor about the situation of the 16 Kuwaiti students in Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, where a nuclear reactor exploded recently, was a result of "the anxiety of their families and the cables sent to the students from their families demanding their immediate return home."

The Kuwaiti ambassador, who last night sent Cultural Attache 'Ali al-Halabi to Kiev to receive reassurance from the students, expressed his appreciation for the Ukrainian deputy minister of education's cooperation and willingness to either postpone the date of the students' examinations or to evacuate them from the city if they so wished. The students decided to remain and to continue their studies and their examinations.

NIGERIA

Government Sends Condolences to USSR on Explosion

AB062244 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] The Federal Government has sent a message of condolence to the Soviet Union on the explosion at the nuclear plant at Chernobyl which led to loss of lives and property. The message was delivered to the Soviet ambassador to Nigeria by the minister of external affairs, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi. The Federal Government appealed to the Soviet authorities to help give utmost protection to Nigerian students resident in the affected areas.

Guarantee on Safety of Citizens Requested

AB061914 Paris AFP in French 1840 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Lagos, 6 May (AFP) — The Nigerian Government has asked the Soviet Union to guarantee the security of 131 Nigerian students living in the vicinity of the Chernobyl nuclear station in the Ukraine where an accident took place last week, it was learned in Lagos.

In a communique issued on Tuesday, the Nigerian Government also expressed its "sympathy" for the loss of human lives and damages resulting from this accident. Mr Bolaji Akinyemi, the Nigerian minister of foreign affairs, received Mr Yuriy Kuplyakov, the Soviet ambassador, to express Nigeria's sympathy and condolences as well its government's "concern" for the security of Nigerian students. The communique stated that, according to a report sent by the Nigerian embassy in Moscow, the 131 students are not threatened. According to the communique, Mr Akinyemi has, nevertheless, asked the Soviet ambassador that Moscow must see to "the protection of the students or their transfer to other regions to continue with their studies."

PANAMA

Physicist Comments on Western Lies About Chernobyl

LD061014 Moscow TASS in English
0650 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Panama-City, May 6, TASS — TASS correspondent Igor Klekovkin reports:

Reports of Western news agencies on the accident at a Soviet atomic electric power plant abound in false assertions and fabrications, the local newspaper *LA PRENSA* has been told in an interview by noted Panamanian physicist Simon Quiros Guardia, who worked for a long time at the nuclear research centre of Oklahoma University (USA). Pursuing openly political aims, streams of lies and misinformation were pounced on the poorly informed audience.

Could a sober-minded person believe, for instance, the report saying the "radiation in Chernobyl is a thousand times higher than that of the Hiroshima explosion" or the absurd statement that "two thousand lives were lost". This is a cynical lie, bound to divert the attention from nuclear tests, said the scientist. Atomic explosion on the Mururoa Atoll and Christmas Islands are many times more dangerous than the Chernobyl accident, and could contaminate to a much greater extent the atmosphere with radio-active substances, said Simon Quiros Guardia.

PHILIPPINES

Group Formed To Monitor Radiation Levels

HK060407 Quezon City DZFM Radio in English
2300 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] The Philippine Atomic Energy Commission, or PAEC, has formed a special body to monitor radiation levels 'round the clock in the country's atmosphere. PAEC commissioner Manuel Eugenio said precautionary guidelines will be issued if they beocme necessary. As of now, however, Eugenio said there is no need to worry. He said the nuclear plant accident in the Ukraine does not seem to ahve affected the country.

[Begin Eugenio recording] We would not be expecting too much of this fallout over the Philippines, but as I said, we are continuing to monitor. We are doing this every day, even during the past weekend. We will do it tomorrow. We are getting samples to measure the radioactivity of the environment, and we will inform the public as the results we are getting. [end recording]

TAIWAN

Nuclear Plants Under Strict Safety Control

OW051451 Taipei CNA in English
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[Text] Taipei, May 5 (CNA) — The Executive Yuan said Monday that all nuclear power plants in the Republic of China are under strict safety control by the Atomic Energy Council and the Taiwan Power Company and they are not allowed to make any small mistake in their daily operations.

In a written reply to interpellations by Legislators Huang Chu-wen, Chiang Peng-chien and Liu Yu-hsiang concerning the safety of nuclear power plants, the Executive Yuan said it has directed Taipower to shelve its plan to build the fourth nuclear power plant until the people here better understand the efficiency and safety of nuclear power plants and their influence on the environment.

The Economics Ministry has also entrusted the Chung Hwa Institute for Economic Research to go through every pro and con of the construction of the fourth nuclear power plant and come up with an overall evaluation report by June this year, it said.

The Yuan pointed out that Taipower has always viewed safety as the top priority in building, maintaining and running nuclear power plants.

To ensure the safety of nuclear power generation, each nuclear reactor and generator in this nation has to pass through several thousand safety tests a year, it said.

The Yuan also indicated that Taipower has already dispatched many outstanding engineers and technicians to study nuclear technology at renowned institutes in the United States. This, it said, will further enhance the safety of nuclear plants.

VIETNAM

Hanoi Says U.S. 'Exploiting' Chernobyl Accident

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[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists and some other reactionary forces are exploiting the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear factory in the Soviet Republic of Ukraine for political purpose. They fabricated sensational stories about thousands of people got killed in the nuclear accident to horrify people. U.S. President Reagan even accused the Soviet Union of covering up the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear station.

The fact is that immediately after the accident the Soviet Government has informed all countries concerned about it and measures to overcome its aftermath. This accident only killed two people and wounded a few others. Moreover, it is the first accident at a nuclear factory in the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, according to a report by the American Citizens Organization, there have been about 20,000 such accidents at U.S. nuclear factories since 1979, and the number of these accidents increases annually. In 1983, there were 5,000 accidents; among them 247 cases were regarded as serious. The Reagan administration did not care a thing for the victims while making a hue and cry about and shedding crocodile tears on the fate of the victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear factory of the Soviet Union. If the United States Administration really cares for mankind's existence and fate, it should not have accelerated the nuclear arms buildup, the most dangerous weapon of mass destruction. By making such noises about the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear factory, the United States attempted to besmear the Soviet Union's prestige and play down the Soviet peace initiative, which has won worldwide support and to sidetrack world public attention from the U.S. testing.

However, the Reagan administration's afforts would get to nowhere. Even during these days, the world public — including the American — keeps condemning the U.S. nuclear buildup and demanding that the Reagan administration follow the Soviet Union's example to halt all nuclear tests. In Britain, Secretary of State [title as heard] Geoffrey Howe urged the U.S. President not to make use of the Chernobyl nuclear accident for anti-Soviet propaganda. Reaction by the world public proves that the U.S. efforts to use this accident to besmear the Soviet Union have been futile.